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WEST MORETON SERIES No. 2.

QUEENSLAND.

# Lockyer and Stanley.



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.. DAIRYING ..



FRUITGROWING  
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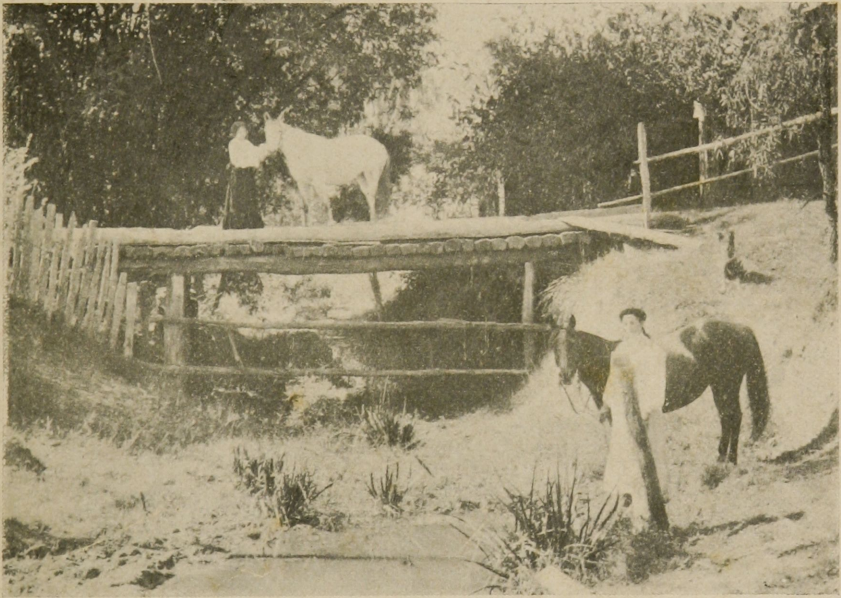




West Moreton Series No. 2.



# Lockyer and Stanley.



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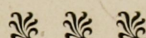


# . . . CONTENTS . . .

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## . . . LOCKYER . . .

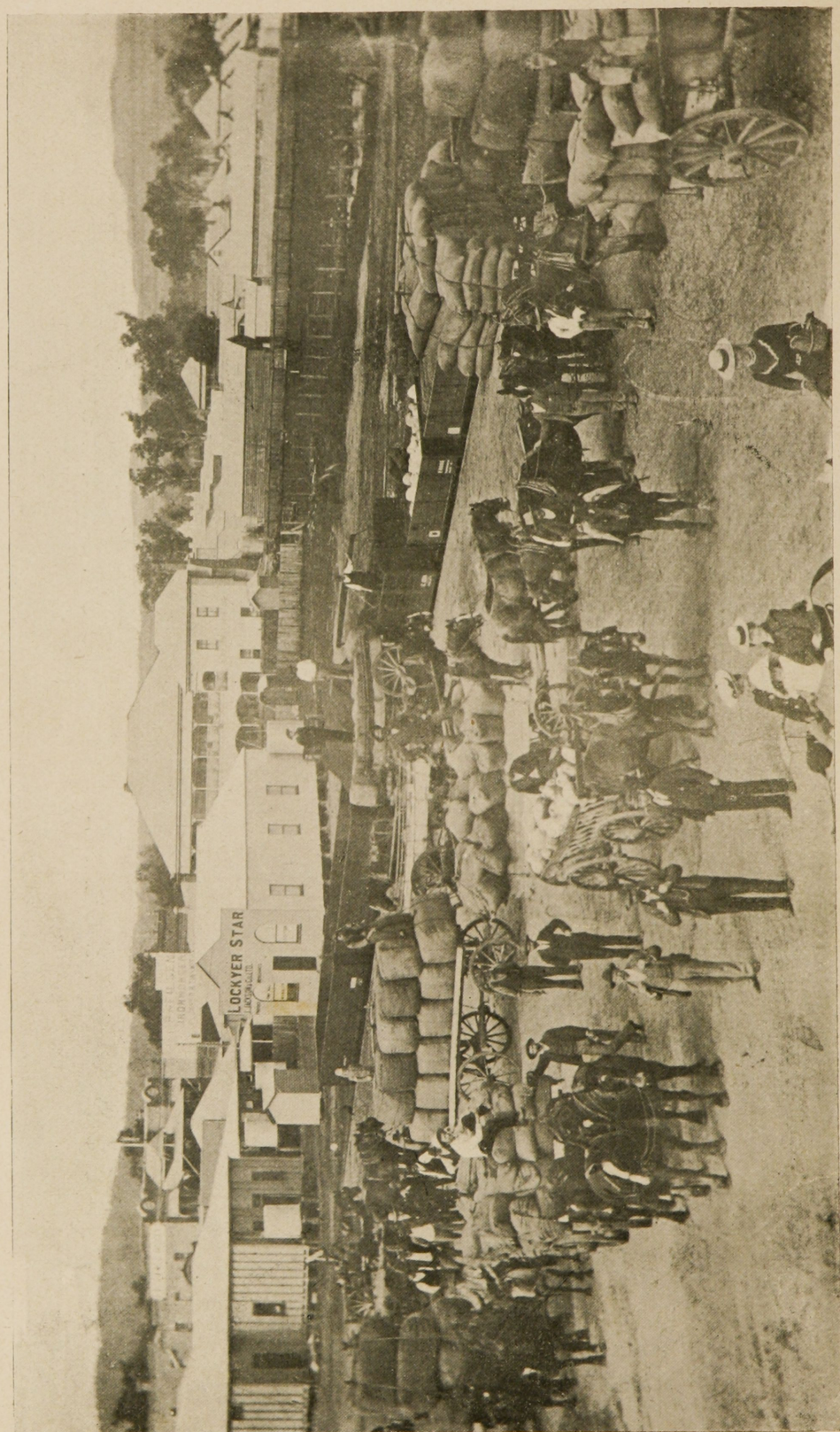
	PAGE.
GENERAL DESCRIPTION ... ..	5
THE REPURCHASED ESTATES ... ..	12
LAIDLEY ... ..	15
FOREST HILL ... ..	28
QUEENSLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE ... ..	34
ADARE ... ..	43
LAKE CLARENDON, ROSEWOOD, AND TARAMPA ... ..	46
GATTON AND DISTRICT ... ..	47
BLACKFELLOW'S AND MA MA CREEKS ... ..	52
TENTHILL ... ..	55
GRANTHAM ... ..	57
HELIDON AND DISTRICT ... ..	60
MURPHY'S CREEK ... ..	70



## . . . STANLEY . . .

GENERAL DESCRIPTION ... ..	71
PINE MOUNTAIN ... ..	75
LOWOOD ... ..	76
BELLEVUE ... ..	79
NORMAN VINEYARD ... ..	85
ESK AND DISTRICT ... ..	87
THE TIMBER INDUSTRY ... ..	94
TOOGOOLOWAH ... ..	96
NESLE'S CONDENSED MILK FACTORY ... ..	100
CRESSBROOK ... ..	103
COLINTON ... ..	109
BLACKBUTT, RAVENSBORNE, AND PERSEVERANCE ... ..	109
CABOONBAH ... ..	111
KILCOY ... ..	115
MOUNT BRISBANE ... ..	117
MOUNT BYRON ... ..	120





RAILWAY YARDS, LAIDLAY.



# Lockyer

and

# Stanley.

West Moreton No. 2.



**LOCKYER.**

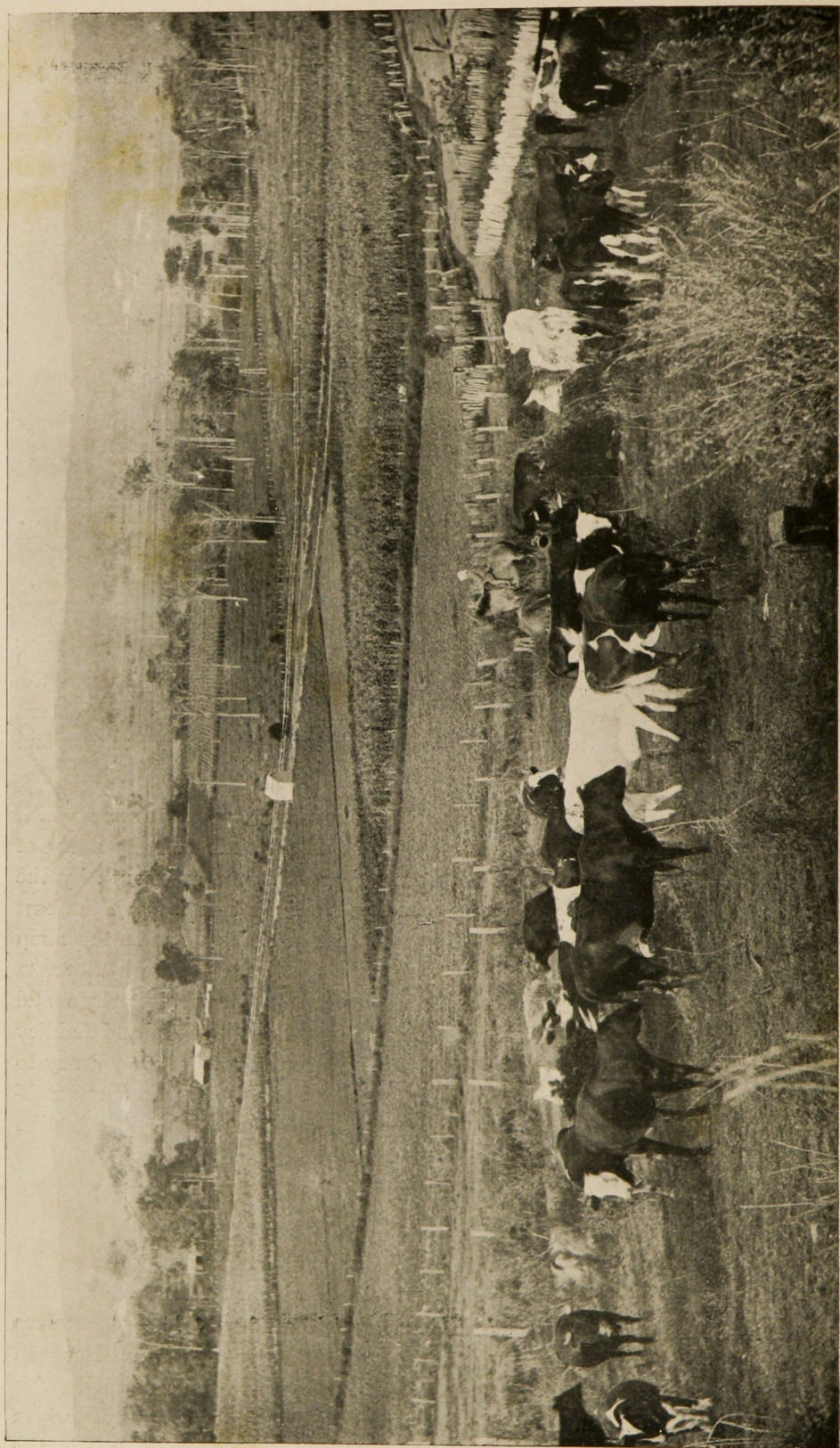
THE West Moreton consists of a large fertile tract of country, comprising over 2,000,000 acres, lying between the Main Range and the eastern coast belt. It is divided into six electorates, returning seven members to the Queensland State Parliament. Of these, Ipswich, the capital, returns two representatives, and the other divisions one apiece. In a previous pamphlet we have dealt with Ipswich, the centre of manufactures, and Bundamba, the head of the coal trade in Queensland.

We now purpose to describe briefly the remaining four electorates which, owing to their great agricultural, dairying, and grazing resources, form the backbone of the West Moreton, and have created the great wealth now existent within its borders. In the present publication we deal with the Lockyer and Stanley electorates.

The Lockyer district takes its name from the fine watercourse which traverses its fertile lands. It is the largest as well as the most westerly of the divisions of West Moreton. It is bounded on the west and south by the Main Range, which divides the coastal country from the interior; on the east by the Little Liverpool Range, a minor chain which links up with the main body of mountains; and on the north by the watershed between Buaraba Creek and the Lockyer. This district is also intersected by Murphy's and Monkey Creeks, Puzzling Gully, Flagstone, Ma Ma, Blackfellow's, and Laidley Creeks, all of which empty into the Lockyer at various points of its journey to join the Brisbane River at Fernvale. The course of the Lockyer is first south-east, then south-west, next nearly north, and thence due east to its junction with the Brisbane. All the creeks abovementioned have their sources in the Main Range, and flow through fertile valleys, walled by scrub and forest-clad hills, into the main watercourse.

To easily grasp the configuration of the country you have only to imagine a wall of mountains to the south and west, out of which, like the fingers of a gigantic hand, run long ridges and spurs which gradually lose themselves in the level lands through which the main watercourse wends its way. Between each of these fingers winds and tumbles a creek. On each side of each creek stretch fertile flats of rich alluvial soil—chiefly a chocolate loam—varying in width from a few miles to half a mile, until they narrow and are lost in the





CATTLE SCENE ON LAIDLEY CREEK.



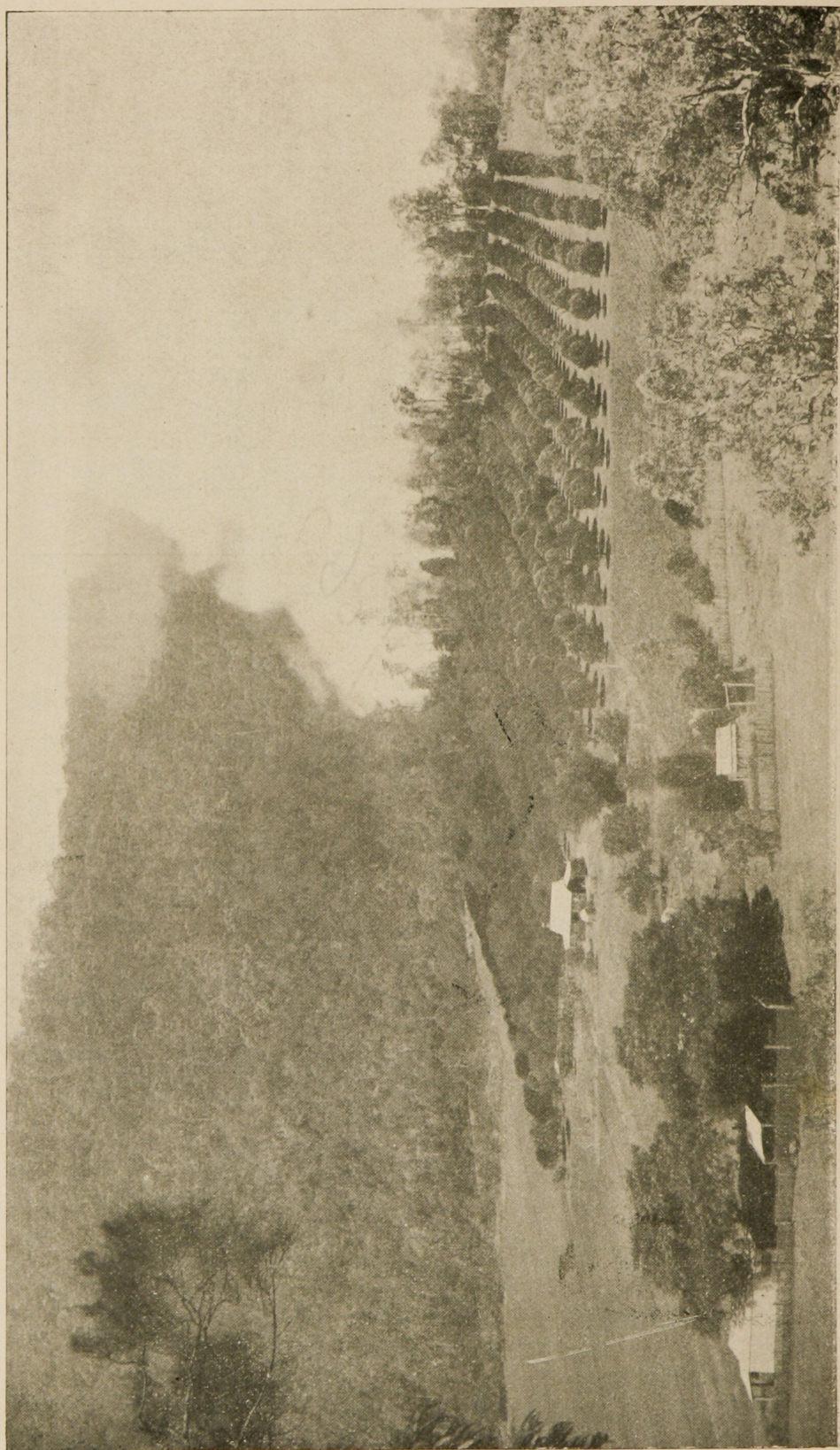
mountains at the head. Rich scrub lands clothe the sides of the hills, and on these cleared scrub lands hundreds of cultivated fields and neat white homesteads glisten in the sun. This description of country prevails all along the eastern, southern, and western boundaries of the district. Once clear of the hills you emerge on to rich level lands formerly heavily timbered with hardwoods, but now being rapidly cleared by the agriculturist. The main line from Brisbane to Sydney, after crossing the Little Liverpool Range, traverses the Lockyer from Laidley to Murphy's Creek, running due west. With the exception of the extreme west, where the train begins to ascend the mountains to Toowoomba, this is all level country—magnificent agricultural land. It extends south of the railway line to the foothills of the ranges and north-east from Gatton to Lowood, a tract of thousands of acres of creek flats and fine stretches of loamy soil, 24 miles long and 20 miles in width. Away to the west and north-west the soil—except in patches—is lighter and sandier, and, on account of the rougher character of the country, is more suitable for grazing than agriculture. On the slopes of the range to the north, however, the soil gets richer.



FELLED SCRUB READY TO BURN OFF.

A local writer has admirably described it thus: "The main watercourses have their sources in the ranges away to the south of the several townships bordering on the trunk line of railway which passes through the district. These flow on for some distance through the horse-shoe valleys formed by the ranges, and from their banks, stretching to the base of the mountains, are rich alluvial flats tenanted by a contented, because successful, community of farmers. The areas abutting on the rivulets are composed of a light-coloured, loamy soil of considerable depth, whilst further back towards the base of the ranges the ground gradually becomes heavier and darker, and, in most instances, that





BURNING OFF SCRUB, MOUNT SYLVIA, RUBSTEIN'S ORCHARD IN FOREGROUND.



furthest from the stream is of a heavy black description. This variety of character in the soils is advantageous in that it gives a natural adaptability for diversified farming. All of the ground on the succession of low spurs branching off the main ranges and running parallel with the streams has been selected and very much of it placed under cultivation. The soil here is for the most part of a light reddish colour, extremely fertile under favourable climatic conditions and particularly friable. These areas are admirably suited for dairying purposes. Couch grass—a natural and very nutritious fodder—grows luxuriantly, and when the forest flats are parched and bare, there is an abundance of this natural herbage in these quarters. It is an admitted fact that in instances where cows have to rely for their sustenance upon the country's natural grasses, those located on these uplands give the best average yield of milk the year through, and it is milk, too, which is richer in butter fat than that obtained from the grass-fed cattle in the meadows."



HUNTER'S SHEEP ON LAIDLEY CREEK.

On the scrub farms, also, *paspalum* flourishes, which is a heavy butter producer. Indeed, this fine grass is pretty universal throughout the West Moreton, both on the flats and the scrubs.

The principal products of the Lockyer District are lucerne, potatoes, maize, and cream; but a great variety of other crops from cotton and mangel wurzels to broom millet are also grown. As a fodder-producing district, it has no equal in Queensland, and enormous quantities of the three first-named articles of consumption are trucked off all the year round. When it is considered that, owing to its mild climate and good rainfall, two crops of potatoes and two crops of maize can be easily garnered in a good year, and that six cuttings of lucerne—in fact, sometimes eight cuttings—averaging from 15 cwt. to 1 ton per acre per cutting, can be taken off the land, it will be



conceded that the Lockyer is nothing if not an agricultural province. As much as 10 tons of potatoes to the acre and 80 bushels of maize per acre have been garnered in several instances, but a fair average would be 4 tons per acre of potatoes, 30 to 35 bushels of maize per acre, and 15 cwt. of lucerne per acre per cutting. In addition, panicum and oats are grown for hay, and root crops, such as mangel wurzels, rape, swedes, and turnips, do well. Considerable quantities of pumpkins are grown and sent principally to Sydney; and here and there a little cotton. Fruit is also extensively grown, and of a great variety, such as oranges, lemons, apricots, peaches, mangoes, pineapples, passion fruit, and grapes. Nearly every farm has its orchard and vineyard, and many farmers make their own wine.

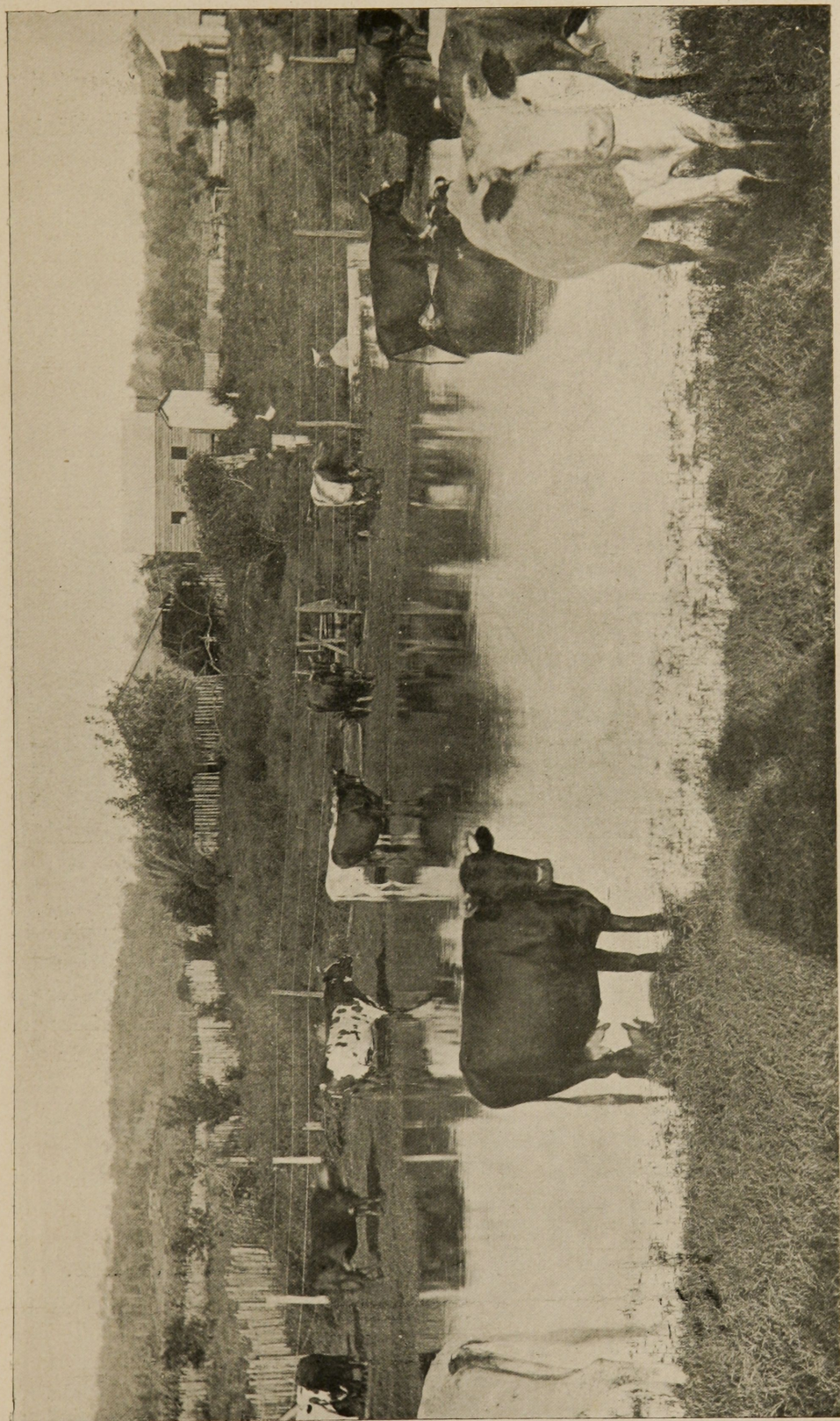
But it is to dairying that the Lockyer, like all the agricultural districts in Southern Queensland, owes more than anything else, its rapid development. Every farmer is dairying more or less, and the factory vans, which travel from farm to farm picking up the cream cans and taking them into the factories or depôts, can be met with in every part of the district.



CATTLE SCENE: L. HANSEN'S, MOUNT SYLVIA.

The beginning of the dairying industry in Queensland was the travelling dairy which was instituted by the Government about twenty years ago to teach farmers practical butter-making on scientific lines. This dairy was placed under the supervision of Mr. John Mahon, the present Principal of the Agricultural College, at Gatton. This was the first time the separator was publicly used in Queensland. At that time the dairy cattle were a very inferior lot. Cows were milked once daily and calves allowed to run with their mothers. Cheese-making was practically unknown. The Queensland butter manufactured, with the exception of one or two cases, was of a very inferior quality, and was





CATTLE SCENE, LAIDLEY CREEK.



disposed of in the Brisbane market at 3d. and 4d. per lb. Since then the dairying industry has made very rapid strides. Dairy herds have improved out of all knowledge, and dairymen go in for making provision, by conserving fodder, for a time of need. It was not until about ten to twelve years ago that the farmers began to seriously take to dairying, but it has now increased to such an extent that there are factories and cream depôts all over the district. Competition amongst the butter factories is exceedingly keen, and, in some of the townships, there are four or five rival cream depôts all endeavouring to get the biggest share of the cream supply.



FARM SCENE: A. SOARE'S, LAKE CLARENDON.

Perhaps a better idea of the wonderful development now taking place in the Lockyer District is to go back a few years into its history. Originally the country, which consists of level lands running to the foot of the ranges and deep valleys piercing the hearts of the hills, was very heavily timbered, principally with hardwoods, some of the trees being of great girth. In the fifties and sixties the whole district consisted of a few stations carrying cattle. Thus Laidley Creek Station, comprising all the land from Gunn's Lagoon to the head of the creek, a distance of 20 miles—now supporting thousands of people—only found employment for two men. Grantham, Tent Hill, Helidon, Rosewood, and Tarampa were stations running cattle on land now exclusively devoted to intense farming. Subsequently some of these stations were subdivided, Lake Clarendon being formed out of Grantham, and the other half of Grantham changing hands. As time went on, the Government resumed part of the various leaseholds and settled people upon them, until all that was left of the stations were the freehold blocks. Thus farming began in a small way. At first cotton and maize were grown; then lucerne was introduced, and found to be particularly well suited to its environment both as regards



soil and climate. As a matter of fact, the farmers on the rich flats of the Laidley Valley were not slow to perceive that in their lucerne paddocks they held veritable gold mines. Able to cut their crops from six to eight times a year for a return of 15 cwt. per acre per cutting, and distant only two hours train haulage from Brisbane, they quickly passed from the achievement of a competence to comparative wealth. More and more land went under crop in lucerne, maize, and potatoes—chiefly the two former—and the price of land, originally acquired at 2s. 6d. an acre—and in some cases bought at £5 to £7 per acre—has now reached £20 per acre for the choicest pockets on the creek and adjoining the township and railway station. The same thing may be said about Gatton. Agriculture there consisted at first of maize and potatoes. Now dairying and lucerne-growing, besides extensive fruit-growing, flourish. Up Blackfellow's and Ma Ma Creeks, to the south of Gatton, rich pockets of friable

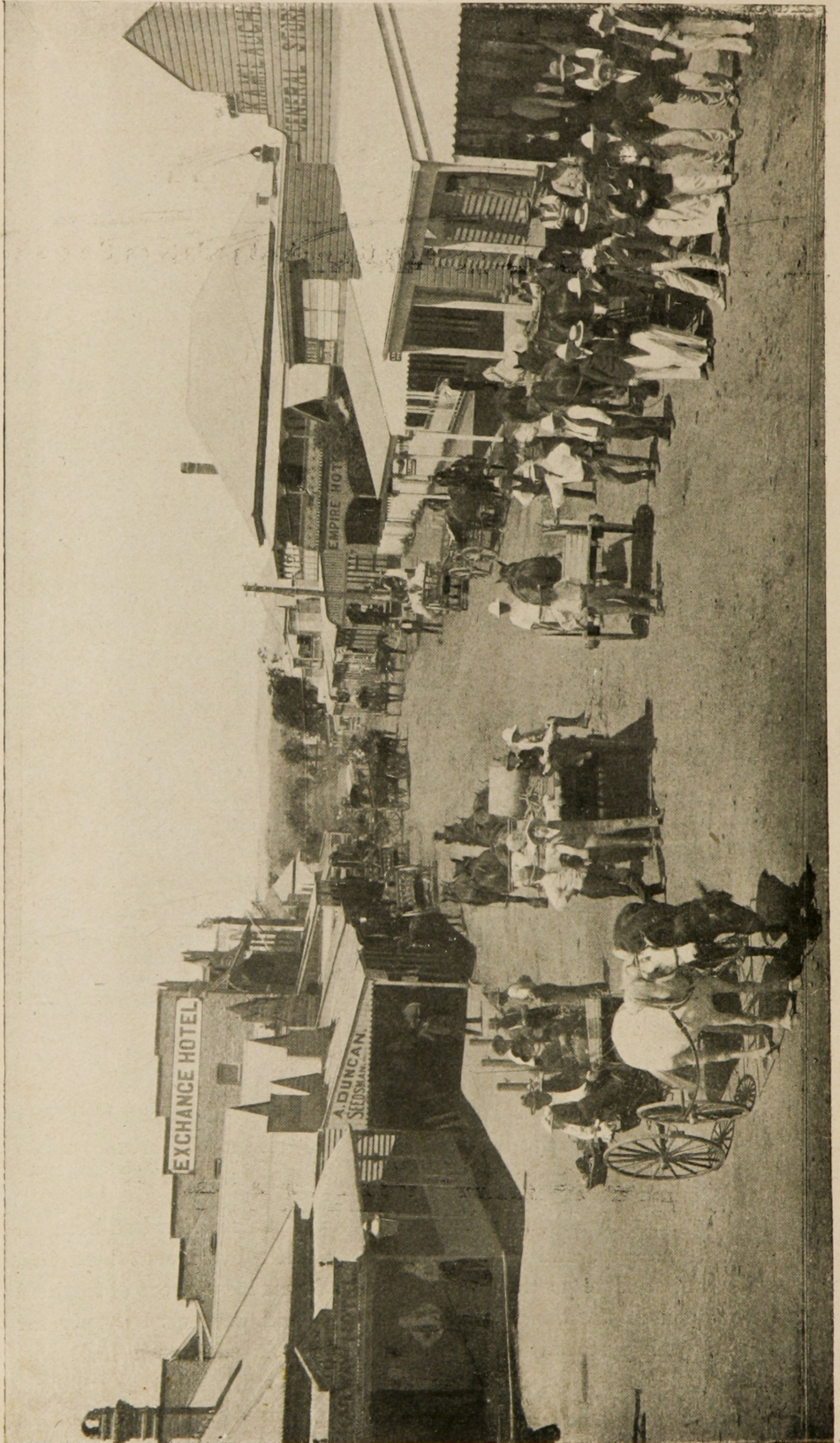


THRESHING MAIZE: LOGAN'S, FOREST HILL.

loam form some of the finest potato land in Queensland. On some occasions yields up to 10 tons to the acre have been obtained, and small fortunes made in one year.

The position, after the resumed halves of the various stations had been all settled by small holders, and after all the available Government land had gone, was that whilst these portions were in use as farms large areas of freehold land still remained in the hands of the squatters, and were used simply for grazing and fattening stock. As it became apparent that such land was becoming too valuable for the latter purpose, several stations either sold out to syndicates who cut up the land for settlement, or cut it up themselves. In the seventies, Laidley Creek was cut up and sold, and in the eighties and





PATRICK STREET, LAIDLEY.



nineties portions of Rosewood. In the nineties part of Grantham was sold and settled on at from £1 10s. to £2 per acre, and is now fetching from £12 to £20 per acre.

It was, however, in the nineties and during the early part of the present decade that the Government gave a great impetus to agricultural development in the Lockyer by purchasing the freehold estates of Lake Clarendon, Rosewood, and Tarampa, and offering them for close settlement in small areas at from £5 to £9 per acre on terms extending over twenty years.

This practically meant opening to selection all the country—thousands of acres of first-class arable land—between Gatton and Lowood. Every acre was eagerly taken up. It is certainly an object lesson in development when we consider that only a few decades ago all the district was heavily timbered forest country, occupied by a few station-owners, who used it for grazing stock, whilst at the present time it is a hive of agricultural industry dotted over from one end to the other with prosperous farms. The effect of this Government policy, conjointly with the large blocks subdivided and sold by Rosewood Station, has resulted in placing thousands of acres under lucerne, and of practically creating the township of Forest Hill. Forest Hill is now despatching more produce than either the older communities of Laidley and Gatton, and of this produce 70 to 80 per cent. comes off the farms on the repurchased estates.

At the present time there is not a single acre of Government land to be got in the Lockyer.

This may be cited as an instance of what can be done in Queensland by the right class of people. Here is the transformation from a pastoral to an agricultural province effected in a couple of decades with all the concurrent advantages it brings. Queensland has many another district awaiting similar development where individual wealth must follow if suitable men, accustomed to an outdoor life, and not afraid of the first few years of hard work, are attracted to our shores.

Already there is a great diversity of nationality amongst the Lockyer farmers—Scotland, England, Wales, Ireland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, and other lands being all represented.

### LAIDLEY,

THE little township of Laidley may be termed the capital of the Lockyer. It is one of the busiest agricultural towns in Queensland. Its main street bustles with life. Picturesquely situated on a flat at the foot of the Little Liverpool Range, on the railway line about 51 miles distant from Brisbane, the town forms a central dépôt for a large farming area. Less than a mile away is Laidley Creek, a running stream. Farms extend for 25 miles each side of the town to the north and south, and to Forest Hill on the west. To the south stretch the rich flats of Laidley Creek. All along the valley, which varies from



one to two miles in width, the areas of cultivation—emerald, dark green, and yellow—and the fields of newly ploughed black and chocolate soil, are framed in a setting of dark blue hills. These rich levels are all magnificent lucerne



CREAM CANS AT LAIDLEY STATION—READY FOR TRANSIT.

and potato country, formed by volcanic action and alluvial wash. On the creek, which carries a dense farming population, are the prosperous settlements of Burnside, Thornton, and Townson.

To the north extend low hills chequered with cultivation areas and snug homesteads, and the level lands of the repurchased estates of Tarampa and





NEILSEN'S CATTLE, LAIDLEY CREEK.



Rosewood, all now thickly settled in small farms. At Hattonvale is a small township, thickly populated by Germans engaged in dairying, maize-growing, and pig-raising; and halfway between Laidley and Hattonvale is Plainland. To the west are the settlements on Sandy Creek, Blenheim, and on to Forest Hill.

Laidley possesses a Courthouse, Police Barracks, Post and Telegraph Office, Telephone Exchange—with wires communicating with Brisbane, Toowoomba, and also with the other district centres—and a School of Arts and Reading-room with about 1,500 volumes. There are two banks—the Queensland National and the Royal—five hotels, and another in the old town, and five churches, representative of the Roman Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian, Church of England, and Salvation Army denominations. There is a large State school in Laidley North, with a staff of six teachers, and the Education Department is erecting another school in the old town. In addition, State schools are liberally scattered all over the district wherever the density of population calls for them. These number in all about seventy in the Lockyer.



BUTTER FACTORY, LAIDLEY.

Laidley is the only town in the Lockyer District that has reached the dignity of being created a municipality, which honour was conferred on it in 1902. Previous to this it was governed by the Laidley Shire Council, which controls local government matters over the Laidley Creek lands, Tarampa, and Rosewood Repurchased Estates, and Hattonvale; also over Forest Hill, up to within a mile of Gatton. Laidley, therefore, is the headquarters of two local bodies—the Municipal Council, consisting of a mayor and six aldermen; and the Shire Council, consisting of a chairman and nine members. The population of the municipality is about 1,500 with 320 householders; the population of the shire includes several thousand. There are a Shire Hall and two other proprietary halls.



A branch of the Queensland Farmers' Co-operative Butter Company was established in Laidley about three years ago, and the factory is doing a very good business. There are over 200 suppliers, and about 6 tons of butter per week are being turned out. The factory is capable of dealing with 10 tons a week in a good season. The success of this co-operative movement amongst dairymen is very noticeable throughout the West Moreton. There is also a sawmill, conducted by Mr. W. G. Billington.

The Lockyer Agricultural, Horticultural, and Industrial Association holds an annual show of produce and live stock alternately at Laidley and Gatton. This is worked conjointly with separate committees at each place, and is a very successful institution. At the last show 5,000 people were present, and the entries numbered 1,300.



LUCERNE AT W. BAULCH'S FARM, LAIDLEY CREEK.

Laidley also possesses an excellent newspaper—"The Lockyer Star"—founded in 1889, and published bi-weekly under the editorship of Mr. Paul Doig. Amongst the sporting institutions are the Lockyer Amateur Turf Club, the Rifle Club, two cricket and one football clubs, and the non-sporting establishments comprise the Gordon Club in connection with the Church of England; and Masonic, Hibernian, Foresters, Rechabite, and Good Templars' lodges. There are two doctors and three solicitors in the township.

Laidley, like many other country towns, is now contemplating a comprehensive water scheme. About three-quarters of a mile south of the town is situated a large lagoon containing a splendid supply of water. It is a quarter of a mile long, in depth up to 10 feet, and was never known to be dry even in the 1902 drought. It is proposed to lay this water on to the town, and also to tap another lagoon situated on private property, about a mile further on. At





KING'S CROSSING.



the Railway Station there is a large Government well with a fine supply now handed over to the Council as a watering station. All over the Laidley District water can be got at easy depths by sinking—at about 28 feet in the immediate vicinity of the town.

That Laidley is a very busy as well as prosperous community one has only to spend a day there to comprehend. Insolvency is practically unknown. All day long the scene round the railway station is one of bustling activity. The large produce merchants of Brisbane and Ipswich have resident buyers at Laidley and Forest Hill. Competition is keen, and produce bought and paid for on the spot in cash. Round the Railway Station are extensive yards, weigh-bridges, a loop line of railway, and every convenience for loading. The farmers come in during the morning driving their German wagons heavily loaded with



PLOUGHING AT LAIDLEY.

chaff in bales or bags—sometimes with 100 sacks of lucerne chaff on one wagon. As soon as the wagon comes into the yard, the buyers congregate round and bid. The produce goes to the best offer; it is weighed and loaded on the truck straight away. The farmer gets his cheque, cashes it, and either goes home with the money or banks it at once. Thus the vendor is saved all the trouble and delay of consigning his produce to Brisbane or Ipswich firms, and perhaps waiting several days for a return. He can load up in the morning—without making any previous business arrangement—with the certainty that he can find a ready market the moment his wagon enters the railway yard. The farmer can make the hay in his fields, chaff it up, and take it to the station, where it is sent off for immediate consumption. Under these circumstances it is little wonder that wherever there is a piece of land fit for lucerne it is put under that crop. And when in a good season six or



seven cuttings are obtained in a year it can readily be understood that land conveniently situated commands as high as £20 per acre. The rich alluvial lands about Laidley are also famous for potatoes and maize. The total tonnage out from Laidley Railway Station for 1906 was 10,484 tons, of which 9,964 tons was agricultural produce. The following return supplied by the Railway Station-master will give some idea of the productive character of the district around Laidley. For 1906 :—

Bales—Hay	...	...	7,707	Boxes—Eggs	...	...	3,067
„ Chaff	...	...	13,118	„ Butter	...	...	10,841
Bags—Chaff	...	...	39,080	Cans—Cream	...	...	10,793
„ Maize	...	...	49,901	Galls.—Cream	...	...	61,222
„ Potatoes	...	...	3,729	Pigs	...	...	5,790
„ Pumpkins	...	...	580				

The freight on the farm produce, Laidley to Brisbane, 51 miles, is 5s. per ton for truck lots—say, 2½ tons of hay or chaff, or 4 tons of maize or potatoes. Small quantities are charged a slight increase.



PASPALUM GRASS AT MR. HECKEY'S FARM, LAIDLEY CREEK.

Some idea of the expansion of the dairying industry may be formed from the fact that in 1896 only 9,378 gallons of cream were despatched from Laidley, while for 1906 the Railway Station returns show 61,222 gallons. Although the Laidley Valley farmers are so largely engaged in growing fodder—and on a 40-acre plot of good lucerne land a man can make a comfortable living—dairying is almost universal. There are many farmers getting a cream cheque of from £35 to £40 a month from cows pastured on a couple of hundred acres. Nearly 6,000 pigs were sent away from Laidley in 1906. To show what can be done with dairying here it may be stated that one man from New South Wales recently purchased a block of land on the sharp western slope of the valley, and so steep that he had to cut tracks for his cows.



This land has been cleaned up and sown with paspalum, and is bringing in an excellent return. Thus, not only the rich creek flats, but the sharp slopes of the hills can be made productive.

One of the pleasantest outings possible for the city dweller is to run up by train to Laidley—only a two hours' journey from Brisbane—and take a day's drive up the beautiful Laidley Valley. An excellent road has been made on the rich chocolate soil, which was formerly very bad travelling in wet seasons. This road follows the creek up for 25 miles through exquisite scenery. The valley alternately narrows and widens as you proceed; on each side of you are picturesque farms, luxuriant paddocks of lucerne, maize, and potatoes, and comfortable homesteads with their adjacent outbuildings. Rising on either side and in front tower the blue walls of the hills. The creek itself is of ever-running water, fringed with chestnut, bean, and oak trees. About half-way up the creek on the right-hand side the massive bulk of Mount Mistake looms against the sky. This mountain has a semi-circular contour, with sheer



CATTLE SCENE, LAIDLEY CREEK.

precipices, down which in rainy seasons numerous waterfalls plunge into the abyss. These falls can be seen with the naked eye miles away. There is a lot of valuable timber—pine, beech, silky oak, and cedar—on this mountain, but it is difficult to get it out. From the crest a magnificent panorama of the surrounding district can be obtained. Many of the farms up the creek are small in area, others vary from 160 acres up to a couple of thousand. The bigger holdings, running up to 10,000 acres, are mostly mountain country used for grazing. Some of the best land lies about 8 or 9 miles up the creek. The value of the land varies from about £2 to £3 per acre on the ridges to £10, £12, £15, and £20 on the flats, according to quality and situation.

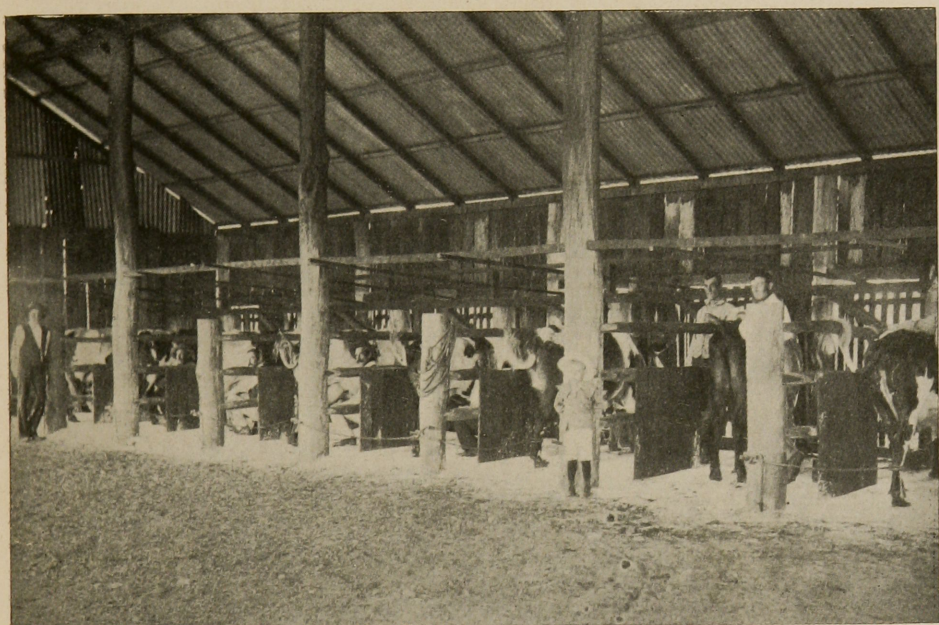




HAYMAKING AT P. M. McGRATH'S FARM, LAIDLEY CREEK.



Originally all this country formed part of Laidley Creek Station, taken up by Messrs. Mort and Laidley in the forties. The latter partner, known as Commissariat Laidley, gave his name to the locality. There are still men living who worked on the station in the fifties, when it was used only for cattle. Mr. Sam Cooper was boundary-riding then on the run when he and another man were the only people within 20 miles. He has now a snug property of his own. Another old identity, Mr. A. Hunter, was bullock-driving and carrying in the locality about the same time. He owns a splendid property of a couple of thousands of acres or so of the finest land on the creek. Mr. P. H. McGrath is another of the early identities who counts his acres by the thousand. There are several others.



MILKING-SHED—A. HUNTER'S, BURNSIDE.

Farming first started in the sixties, on Government land purchased near the present township, and maize and oaten hay were grown. Cotton was grown first in 1867, and was subsidised with a 10 per cent. bonus by the Government. Afterwards wet seasons interfered with the cotton, and the bonus was withdrawn. After cotton, potatoes, maize, and lucerne were grown with great success. Lucerne was first brought from the Hunter River, and tried in 1870. In 1866, all runs were divided, half being thrown open for selection and half being retained by the squatters.

Thus farming began. The squatters sold out to companies, and they cut up the property into farms in the seventies. Much of this land was selected at 2s. 6d. per acre from the Government; other portions were bought at auction for £1 per acre. During the seventies the rush for land set in which has materialised into the present prosperous condition of the Laidley Valley. In old days, the farmers could hardly get a market for their fodder. Maize



at 2s. per bushel, sometimes cost 15s. per ton, sometimes 7s. 6d. per ton, to cart to Ipswich.

In 1867, Mr. A. Hunter shipped to England 20 bales of clean cotton from 12 acres, getting £5 bonus per bale from the Government. The bales contained 300 lb. cotton apiece, which realised  $11\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. Upland cotton, 6 feet to 4 feet apart, grew in height above a man's reach.

Mr. P. H. McGrath, in 1867, shipped home 40 bales clean cotton from 40 acres, getting £5 bonus per bale from the Government, 300 lb. bales fetching 1s. 2d. per lb. He grew it for four years after, but never got as good a crop as the first.



A RETIRED FARMER'S HOUSE AT LAIDLEY.

What the best land on the Creek can produce under the most favourable seasonal conditions may be gathered from the following facts:—

Mr. A. Hunter has grown 80 bushels per acre maize; 64 tons of potatoes from 8 acres, at £7 10s. per ton; 8 tons per acre of lucerne in a year, of eight cuttings.

Mr. P. H. McGrath has grown 100 bushels per acre maize (on a small area); 10 tons per acre potatoes, on a small area; 2 tons per acre lucerne, on a small area, one cutting.

The land is just as good as the Hunter River country for lucerne, which lasts about five years, and can be cut about eight times a year. On the Downs lucerne lasts from seven to ten years, but can only be cut about four times a year.

There is a row of houses in the township built by retired farmers, who have made their money, and are now enjoying their *otium cum dignitate*.





MILKING IN THE OPEN.



**FOREST HILL.**

A stretch of beautiful, level country, lies between Laidley and Gatton. The farms extend on either side of the railway line until you reach Forest Hill, about 4 miles to the west. This brisk little township is going rapidly ahead, and consists of Post Office, branch of the Queensland National Bank, three hotels, several stores, and a State School. The land around Forest Hill was originally part of Kent and Wienholt's Rosewood Cattle Station, which was worked in conjunction with their Jondaryan Estates. It was all fairly heavily timbered country, ringbarked, except the big gum swamps. The owners began to cut it up for sale in 1886, selling 2,000 acres by auction, in 35 to 50 acre blocks. This realised from £3 per acre for land on the ridges to £6 and £8 5s. per acre; some of it is now worth £20 per acre. In 1889 another



SCENE AT H. HERMANSEN'S, THORNTON.

1,500 acres were sold. In 1896, the Government bought 6,000 acres as a repurchased estate at under £4 per acre, and cut it all into blocks varying from 73 to 125 acres, at prices from £3 1s. 6d. to £5 5s., and offered it for selection on twenty years' terms at 5 per cent. The best of it is now worth from £7 10s. to £25 per acre. This land lies south of the Lockyer, immediately on each side of Forest Hill. The grazing areas fetched about £2 per acre. The Government also purchased 1,692 acres as a site for a State Agricultural College and Farm. In 1903, 18,075 acres were cut up and sold as farms; and another portion of 29,000 acres of the Tarampa Estate, extending





CATTLE SCENE ON LOCKYER.

from the junction of the Lockyer and Laidley Creek to Bellevue, was also bought by the Government, and offered to the people on twenty years' terms. The whole of these lands now, including Lake Clarendon, which lies more



PLOUGHING.

towards Gatton, are covered with homesteads, and represent a hive of industry. The farmers are not only doing well, but growing rich. As an instance of the



increase in values brought about by the development of the dairying industry and the demands for first-class lucerne lands: some few years ago Rosewood Station sold about 1,000 acres in and around a locality known as Reed-bed Swamp, north of the railway line, and east of the main road leading to the Agricultural College and the Lockyer Creek. This was surveyed in 40 to 55 acre blocks, and realised from £9 to £20 10s. per acre. It was all bought, except 274 acres of the swamp itself. This was sold to a Mr. Redmond in 1894 at 32s. 6d. per acre cash. The 1893 flood drained the land, cutting a channel about 9 feet deep and 18 feet wide through it, making it all good land, and especially valuable, as the lucerne roots could easily reach the water beneath



HORSES AT HATTONVALE.

the soil. A few months after, 131 acres of this were sold at £10 per acre, and subsequently £20 per acre was refused by the proprietor for the remaining 142 acres of the same swamp. The great value of these Lockyer lands consists in the fact that, in addition to the rich soil, the ground is traversed by underground streams. In some places, especially, the water is only 10 to 15 feet from the surface. In other localities it is further down, but all over the flats water can be obtained at no great depth. The lucerne roots, which have been known to penetrate to a depth of 30 feet, get down to the water, and the lucerne keeps springing all the time. Some of the farms during the big drought of 1902 cut seven cuttings of lucerne in the year, at a time when lucerne was up to £17 per ton. These, of course, were exceptional instances.



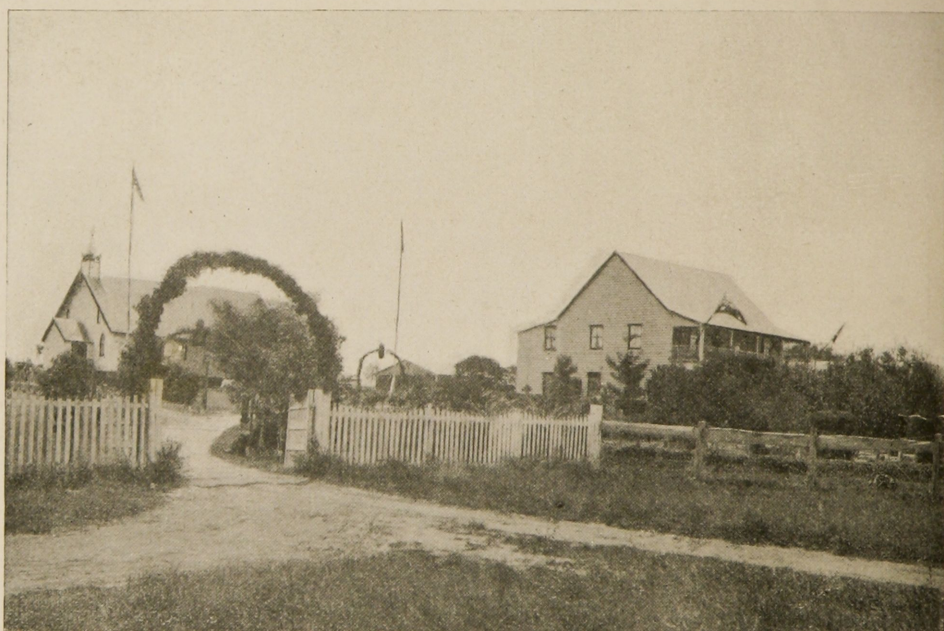


FOREST HILL (FROM I. H. REDMUND'S).



A large amount of produce is annually sent away from these rich lands. In the height of the season as many as forty-two railway wagons have been filled with produce in a single day at Forest Hill. Dairying, maize, potatoes, and lucerne are the main industries. Cotton and broom millet are also grown, the district being especially adapted for the former. Panicum is grown for dairy feed, and fed in winter as hay. Oats do remarkably well, and a good deal of rape, mangel wurzel, swedes, turnips. A considerable amount of pumpkins is grown, and sent principally to Sydney. Seventy per cent. of the produce comes from the farms on the repurchased estates. Most of these lands, too, were heavily timbered, and had to be cleared.

At the present time Forest Hill, which is only of comparatively recent growth, is sending away more produce than either Laidley or Gatton, which are much older communities.



A COUNTRY CHURCH.

The returns for 1906, as given by the Railway Station-master, are as follow :—

Bales—Hay	...	...	22,047	Turnips	...	...	...	920
„ Chaff	...	...	3,843	Poultry	...	...	...	313
Bags—Chaff	...	...	113,994	Boxes—Eggs	...	...	...	736
„ Maize	...	...	40,137	Loose Pumpkins (tons)	...	...	...	535
„ Potatoes	...	...	2,131	Pigs	...	...	...	457
„ Pumpkins	...	...	24,163	Cream (galls.)	...	...	...	16,289
Bales—Broom Millet	...	...	186					

The total outward tonnage for 1906 was 13,833 tons, almost all of it agricultural produce, from land which a few years previously was only used for grazing.





LUCERNE AT FOREST HILL.

Forest Hill took its name from Major Boyd's farm on the edge of the Range. South of the line the river flats and level country extend to the mountains, and the farms are from 40 to over 200 acres, according to the



A WELL STOCKED SHED.

character of the soil. Most of this was sold by Messrs. Kent and Wienholt. Further on, about 5 miles up Sandy Creek, is Blenheim, where mixed farming



(dairying and maize-growing) is carried on. These farms are all cleared scrub holdings, worth from £3 to £12 10s. per acre.

To the north are the repurchased estates, Lake Clarendon, Tarampa, and Rosewood. The old Rosewood Head Station, now called Glenore Grove, is used as a dairy farm of 644 acres, the property of the Hon. F. I. Power, M.L.C.

There is a Post Office and School there. To the east is the Liverpool Range and Laidley, and to the west is Gatton.



HAYMAKING AT TARAMPA.

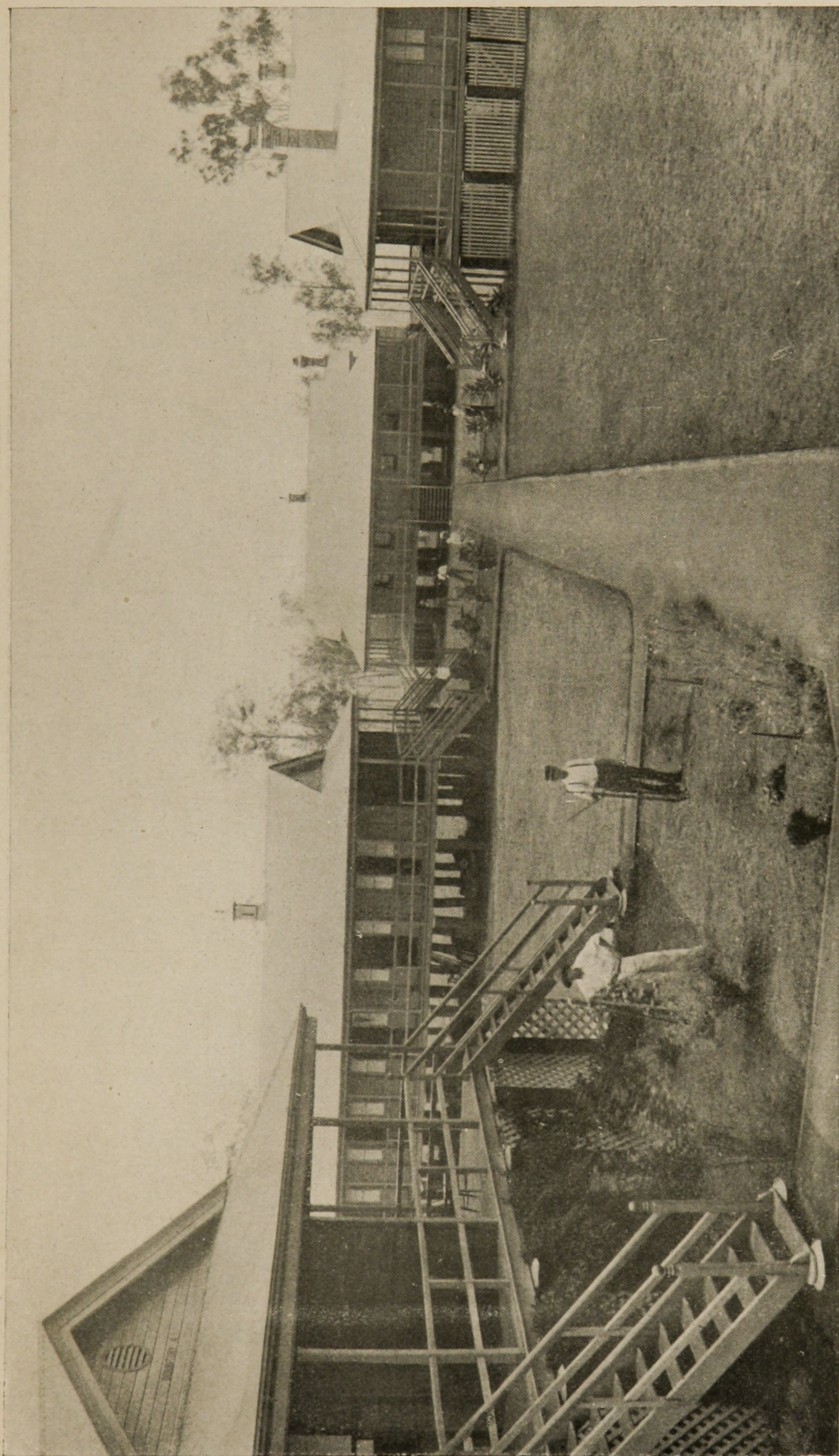
#### QUEENSLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The State Agricultural College, near Gatton, is situated about 58 miles west of Brisbane, near the centre of the great agricultural valley, which is flanked on the west by the Main Range and on the east by the Little Liverpool Range. The College buildings are on a fine dry ridge about a mile north of the Southern and Western Railway, where there is a small railway station for the convenience of the institution. The College lands have frontage to the railway on the south and to Lockyer Creek on the north, and include 1,692 acres.

The township of Gatton lies a few miles to the south-west, and Forest Hill to the south-east. The principal of the College is Mr. John Mahon, a Victorian, who first came to Queensland about twenty years ago to take charge of the Government Travelling Dairy. This was the commencement of the whole dairying industry in Queensland, which in 1907 exported over £600,000 worth of butter.

The College opened its doors to students on 30th June, 1897. It is a purely agricultural institution. The training, studies, and work of teachers





AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE DORMITORIES.



and pupils are all planned to the end that they may help young men to a knowledge of the methods and reasons of successful farming. Each pupil actively participates in all the operations of a well-conducted farm. The lesson in the lecture-room is emphasised in the work of garden, field, and dairy; thus the chemistry of books and the laboratory become something real when its application is seen in cultivated soils and growing crops.

The yearly charge—covering tuition, board, washing, room rent, and lights—is £27, payable half-yearly in advance. The student who, from any cause, retires from the College during the term is not entitled to a refund of any portion of the payment made in his behalf. A deposit of £1 annually is required as a security to the College against loss from damage done to rooms



ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING.

or buildings by occupants. A medical fee of £1 and a recreation fee of £1 are also payable upon entry and annually thereafter by students. The fee for non-resident students is £2 2s. per annum, payable half-yearly in advance.

In addition to the Principal, the staff consists of a resident chemist, licensed surveyor, English and mathematical master, secretary and librarian, farm foreman, superintendent of dairy, assistant farm foreman, horticulturist, poultry expert, engineer, carpenter, and blacksmith. Visiting lecturers on botany and veterinary science also attend. As accessory establishments there are several other experimental farms in Queensland. Two of these are situated on the Darling Downs—at Westbrook, near Toowoomba; and the Hermitage, near Warwick.

The district enjoys an excellent reputation for salubrity. Complaints due to malaria, and, indeed, all diseases of local origin, are unknown. The College plays an important part in the improvement of agriculture. All the



operations of the College farm are planned with a view to the educational wants of the students, and the upholding of the agriculture of the State through experiments. The experimental work of the College follows lines laid down in the general practice of farmers of the State; but, while following, it also leads.

The work properly includes cultural tests of standard crops; trials of new and promising sorts; the effect of different manures upon various crops; trials of grasses and forage plants; tests of different stock foods in the production of milk and meat; the growth of fibre plants; researches into the scientific and economic questions involved in the production of butter and cheese; improvements in dairy stock; methods of silo-making and the manufacture of ensilage; the analysis of soils; the chemical analysis of manures, natural and artificial; and of the various products of the farm, garden, and orchard.

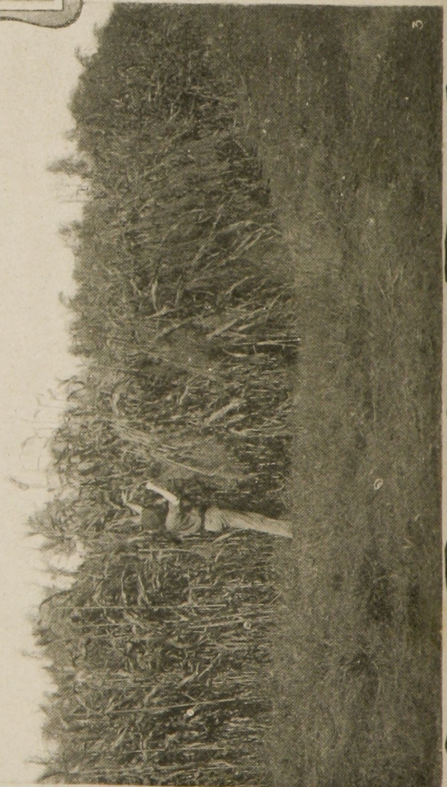
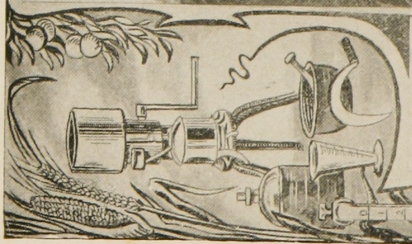


PRINCIPAL'S RESIDENCE.

The buildings number ten, which include a main College building, with a ground area of 70 feet by 112 feet, containing lecture-rooms, Principal's room, visitors' room, and secretary's office; chemical laboratory, three dormitories, residences of staff, dining-room, and kitchen. These are plain one-storied structures, well and durably made, and arranged for the needs of the College. All have pile foundations; broad verandas more or less completely surround each, while the ample tank-room provided ensures abundant supplies of the best water. There is also a gymnasium, which is well-equipped with appliances.

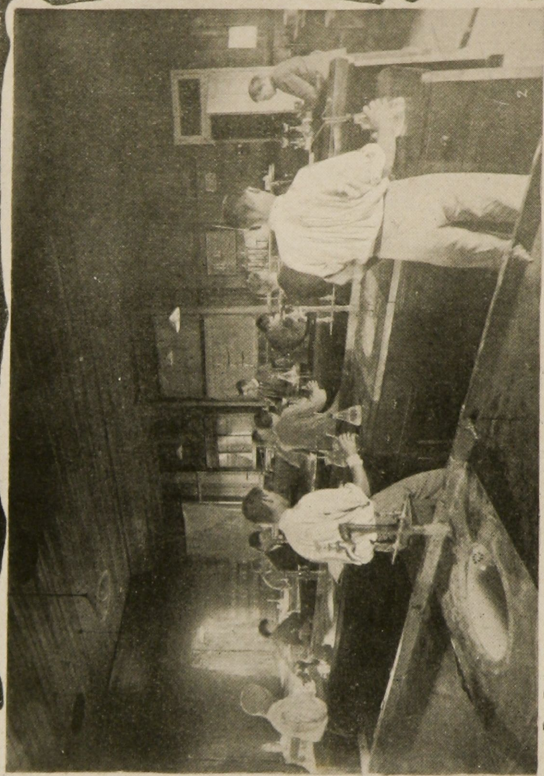
The College farm consists of 1,692 acres of land, especially selected for the Government for the purpose. Prior to the purchase the whole of the land was thickly timbered, except about 300 acres of ringbarked country. About



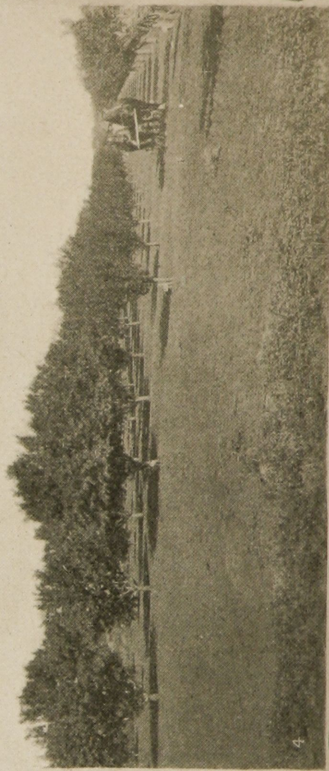


1. CLEARING LAND AT THE COLLEGE.

2. IN THE LABORATORY.



3. BENDING BROOM MILLET.

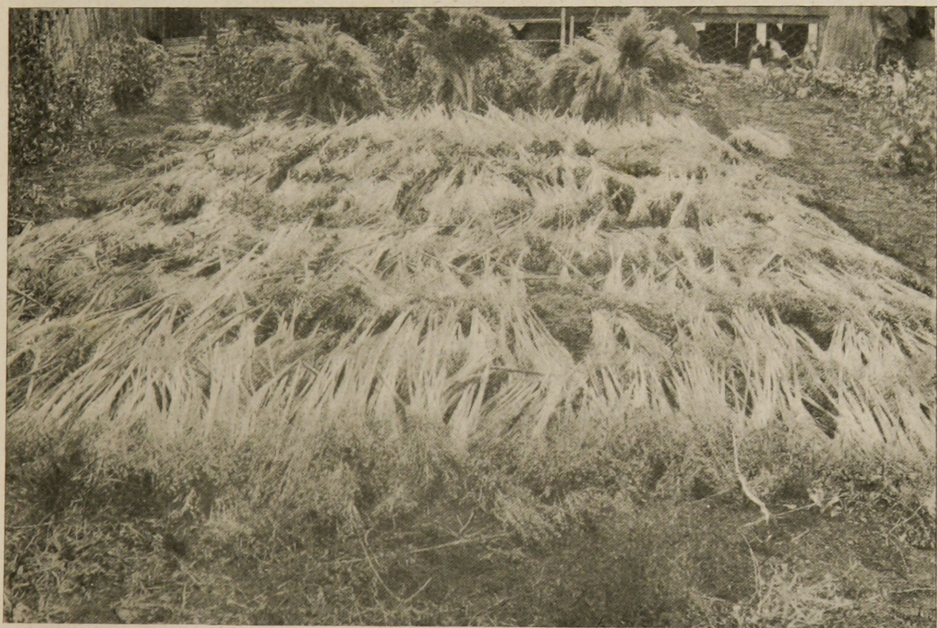


4. ORCHARD AT THE COLLEGE.



500 acres of it have been cleared, and about 400 acres are in cultivation, chiefly in lucerne, maize, potatoes, root and fodder crops, and artificial grasses. Cotton, sisal hemp, and cereals are also grown, the chief trouble in harvesting the former being the dearth and price of labour. Flax grows remarkably well, and there is a large area of broom millet. This is grown for broom-making, and disposed of to the broom-makers of Brisbane.

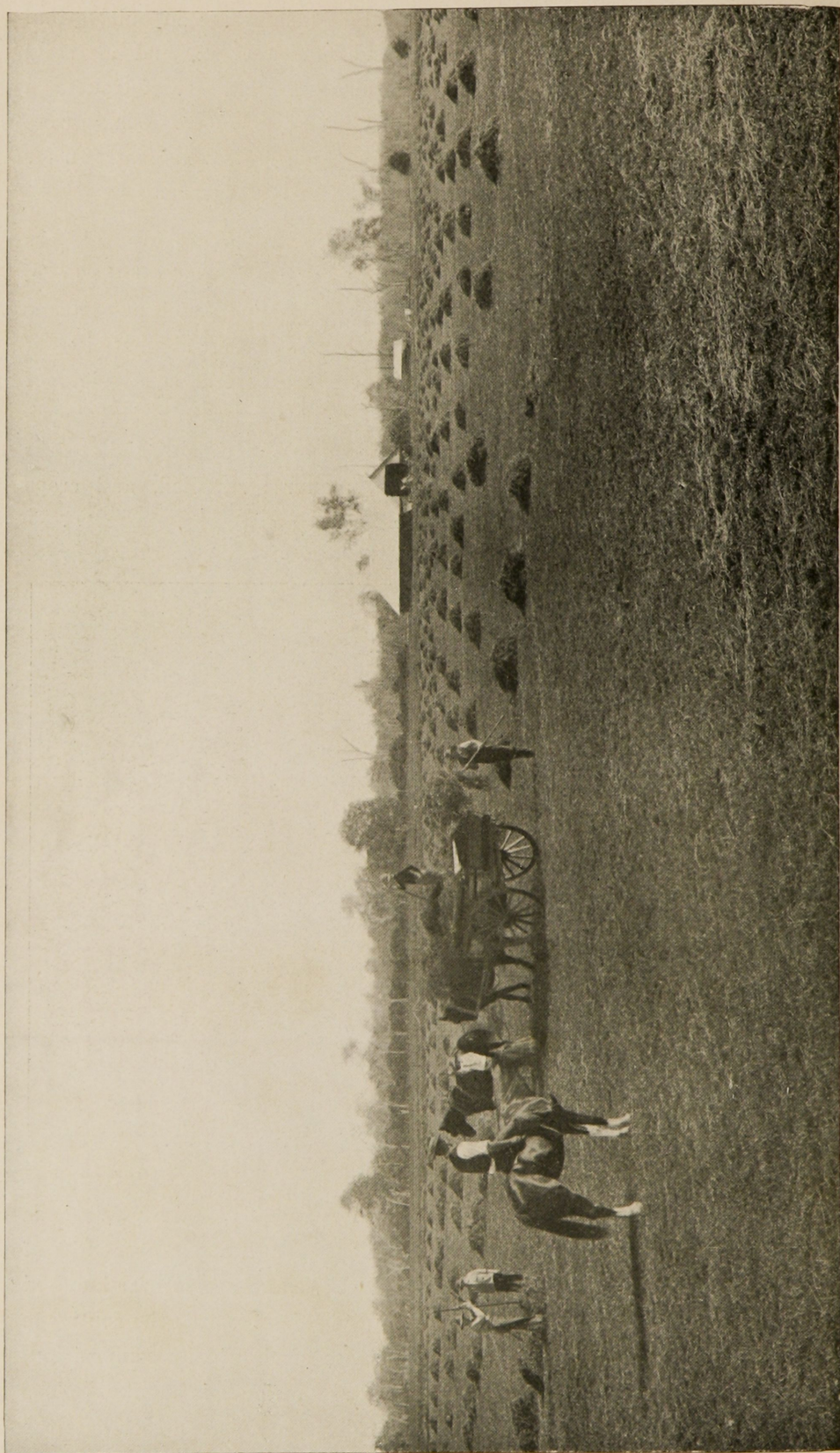
The farm is divided into thirty paddocks. There are two grazing paddocks of about 300 acres apiece opposite the railway line. One is used for the male, the other for the female cattle. There are several *paspalum* paddocks of about 30 acres each. Nevertheless, the Principal regards lucerne as the king of fodders, and not equalled by any other. There are several small plots of artificial grasses. These are grazed. They are put in mainly for experimental purposes. Sixty acres have been marked off in 5-acre plots, and records kept of the various methods of cultivation, manures supplied, and crops produced. The feed is grown chiefly for the stock.



MILLET.

The soil of the College farm is not greatly diversified. As a rule it is heavy land, lying flat, with, however, ample slopes for drainage over most of the area. On the north, following Lockyer Creek, there are several hundred acres of very fertile alluvium—valuable cropping land. Towards the south the surface tends to greater flatness, with an increase of clay in its composition, reaching in places the conditions best described as “melon-hole country.” The surface of the farm is broken by a sandstone ridge, the axis of which cuts the property into two nearly equal parts north and south.





HARVESTING LUCERNE.



The farm buildings comprise a splendid cowshed, capable of housing forty cows; a well-constructed stable, with eight loose boxes and twenty stalls; a tool-room, harness-room, large implement shed, two silos, a barn, and well-equipped blacksmith's shop. The hayshed holds about 300 tons of hay, and the two silos about the same quantity of ensilage. Maize, sorghum, and cowpea are the crops chiefly used for ensilage.

The dairy herd consists of about 160 cows—300 head of cattle all told. Forty cows are milked at once, the Lawrence-Kennedy milking machine being used. On an average about seventy cows are milking all the year round.

There is a fully equipped dairy, with all the latest appliances, including a refrigerator, a pasteuriser, &c., and cheese-making apparatus with the latest improvements.

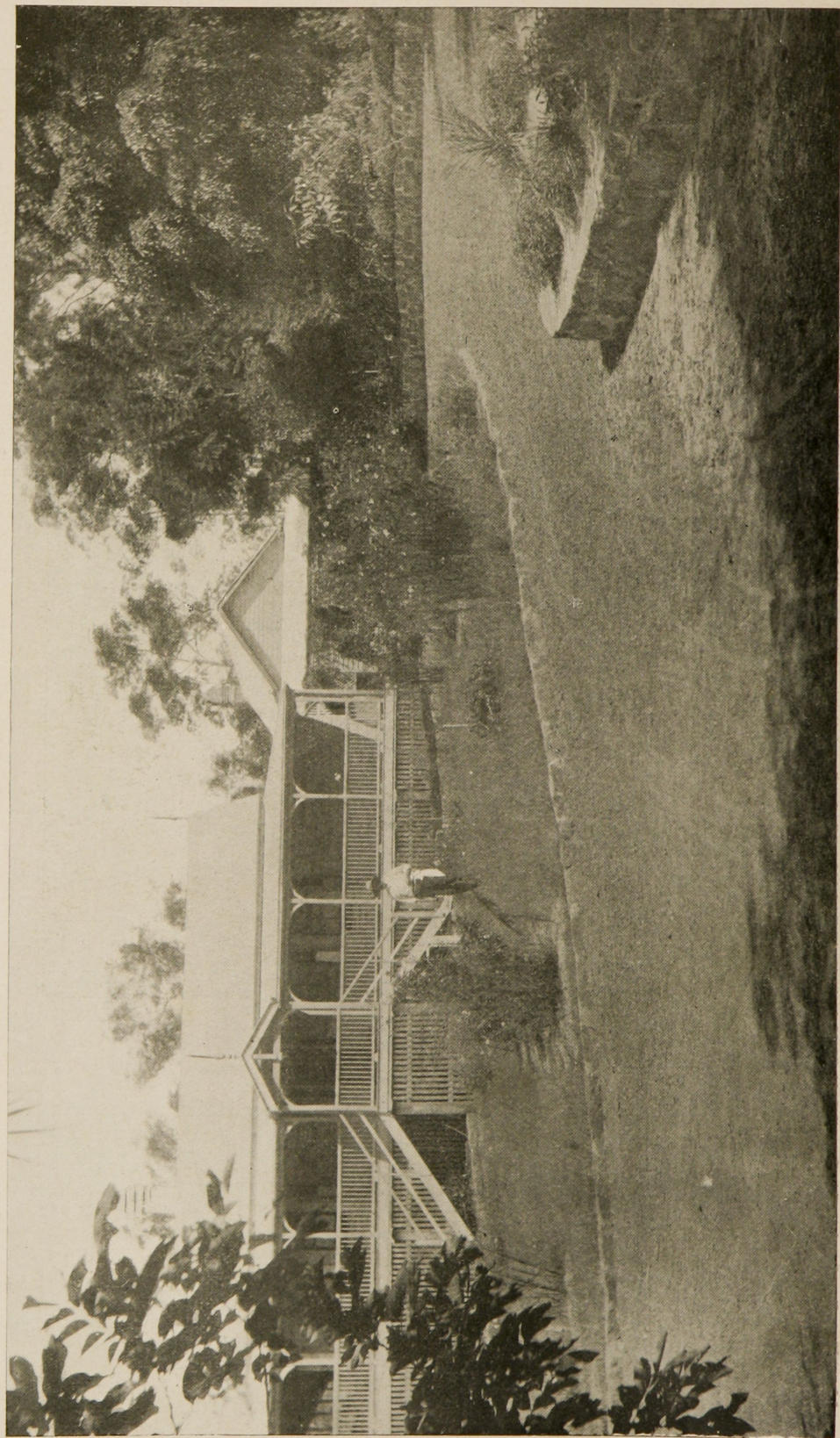


SCRATCHING POST.

The dairy breeds include pure Ayrshires, Jerseys, Holsteins, Shorthorns, Devons, and grades. Most of the bulls are imported bulls, who have since distinguished themselves in the show rings of Queensland. One dark-red and white imported Ayrshire bull, a five-year-old, has never been beaten in Scotland or Queensland.

The poddies are all stall-fed by an ingenious arrangement that prevents jostling. Down the passage-way in front of the stalls are fixed a row of enamelled basins, and each calf is fed twice daily on skim milk and pollard, run up by handcart from the dairy. By this method twenty calves are fed at once. A 4-h.p. oil engine works the milking machinery and chaff-cutter, and another engine works the separator and wood-cutter.





ADARE.



The thirty farm horses are all stall-fed, and hosed every night on return from work before feeding.

About 250 pigs are usually on hand. Of these, sixty are breeding sows and ten stud boars. There are three classes of Yorkshires—large, middle, and black—as well as Berkshires, Tamworth Red, and British Black. The Berkshires find the greatest favour with the Principal, but a splendid type of baconer is produced by crossing with the British Black. These latter are becoming very popular in the West Moreton. The piggery has a capacity of 160 pigs, with a dip attached. Pig manure runs into a pit, from whence it is pumped into tanks and carted away for use on the land.

A large 20,000-gallon tank situated on the College Hill supplies water for the stock and outbuildings. The water is pumped into it from the Lockyer Creek, some distance away.



ORCHARD AT ADARE.

During the last six years 1,027 pedigree animals have been disposed of by sale from the College, and have gone to improve the dairy herds of the State.

#### ADARE.

W. D. Armstrong, Esq., the member for the Lockyer in the Queensland Parliament, has a beautiful home within a few miles of Gatton. "Adare," consisting of about 13,000 acres, was formerly part of Lake Clarendon Station, which Mr. Armstrong managed for many years before it was purchased by the Government for subdivision into farms. The country is more suited for cattle and fruit-growing than for agriculture. It carries about 1,500 head of cattle all the year round. The soil is a decomposed sand and ironstone, excellently



adapted for fruit. There is a magnificent orchard of 1,200 trees, principally oranges, in the south front of the house. Mangoes, figs, guavas, apricots, pears, grapes, peaches, and passion fruit are all growing here in profusion. The approach is by a charming bush road that winds through the forest glades and up a high ridge, on the eastern side of which the house stands, completely protected from westerly winds. No more charming home in the bush could be desired. Each entrance gate is set in beautiful clumps of bamboos, which have a most picturesque effect. The whole arrangement of the ornamental trees, which comprise palms, pines, peperinoes, weeping figs, jacarandas, ponciana regia, pointsetia, carob bean, is so artistically devised as to present an exquisite colour scheme, whilst through clearings in the forest you get



CATTLE AT ADARE.

glimpses of the distant outlines of the Agricultural College and the rich farming lands on the Lockyer. It is a true sylvan scene. The walls of the forest close in on four sides, and give complete seclusion. But inside those frontier lines is another well-ordered forest of fruit trees, symbolic of man's conquest over Nature. The member for the Lockyer is an intense lover of birds, and a sturdy foe to all who would indiscriminately slaughter the beautiful feathered denizens of our woodlands. He is the author of the Native Birds Protection Act. Around Lake Clarendon there is a 1,000-acre block proclaimed as a Native Bird Reserve, of which Mr. Armstrong is ranger. No shooting is allowed, and the birds have quickly discovered that they can breed here in peace and comfort.

In addition to its value as a bird reserve, the 1,000 acres surrounding Lake Clarendon is used as a grazing common by the surrounding settlers. Each settler who took up land on the Lake Clarendon Estate has the right to run





CATTLE AT GLENORE GROVE.



cattle on the reserve in proportion to his acreage. The settlers have fenced it at their own expense, and all the business in connection with it is managed by a trust elected by them. This method is working very satisfactorily.

A drive through the beautiful lands that extend from Gatton down the rich valley of the Lockyer to Lowood—a distance of 24 miles over perfectly level country—is a revelation. You pass for the entire distance through rich cultivated areas with prosperous homesteads standing in the midst of luxuriant lucerne lands, fields of maize standing 7 feet and 8 feet high, and potato paddocks. These lands formerly comprised the repurchased estates of Lake Clarendon, Rosewood, and Tarampa. They were originally thrown open by the Government at prices from £5 to £7 per acre, extending over twenty years' terms. They could not now be purchased at £20 per acre; in fact, some of them have been sold by their tenants at that figure after two years' residence, the purchaser to complete the remaining eighteen years' terms with the Government. From one year's crop of potatoes off a 16-acre paddock a man paid for his entire holding of 160 acres. This fact can easily be verified.



IMPHEE, LAKE CLARENDON.

From the house of Mr. John Balaam, which is situated on a rich volcanic knob surrounded by clay country, probably an old volcano, a good view of the valley of the Lockyer can be obtained. The level country is about 20 miles across and 24 miles from Gatton to Lowood. From this slight eminence you gain a fine view of the mountain ranges with their purple capes and bays running into or receding from the cultivated flats. A cluster of white buildings on a far eminence is Glenore Grove, formerly the Old Tarampa Station; another cluster of dwellings on the fall of a ridge is Hattonvale.



Mr. Balaam, who has been in the district some forty years, obtained his land from the Government. He has about 1,100 acres, of which 73 acres are in cultivation. He goes in for dairying, grazing, and mixed farming, and a few sheep. The property is divided into twenty paddocks. The sheep are moved from paddock to paddock. Mr. Balaam has been fortunate in securing a big supply of water right on top of the knob. A bore was put down 70 feet, and the water is 20 feet in the bore, and pumping makes no impression on it. One curious feature of this circumstance is that for years Mr. Balaam was driving his stock 4 or 5 miles to water, whilst there was an abundant supply a few feet below the ground they daily walked over and within a few yards of the house. It is estimated that there is an ample supply for irrigation if desired.



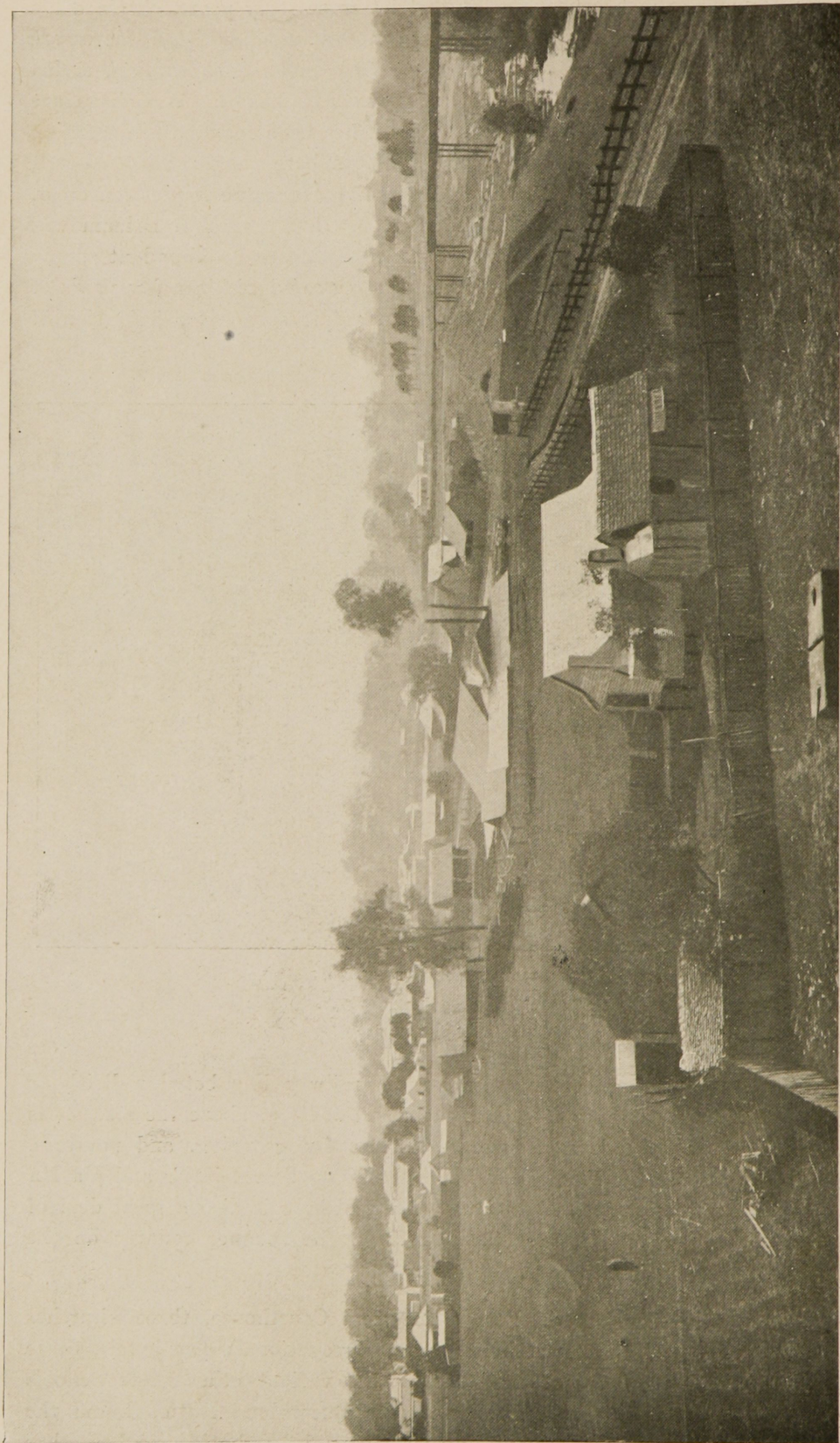
WAITING HER TURN.

### Gatton.

THIS is a busy farming centre on the main railway line between Brisbane and Sydney, about 61 miles from Brisbane, and 337 feet above the sea. It is supported chiefly by dairying, lucerne-growing, fruit-growing, and potatoes. Indeed, for potatoes the land about Tenthill and up Blackfellow's and Ma Ma Creeks could not be surpassed in Queensland. There is also a good deal of winemaking on the outskirts of the town. In the rougher country on the ranges cattle-raising is still carried on.

The township consists of Post Office and Courthouse, three churches (Church of England, Roman Catholic, and Congregational), five hotels, State School with an attendance of 215 (besides the various other State Schools scattered about the district), two banks (the Queensland National and the Royal), School of Arts (a new building with over 1,300 books), and another





GATTON.



School of Arts on Ma Ma Creek; a butter factory, built by the Silverwood Company, and three cream depôts representing the Q.M.E., the Lowood, and Moreton Companies; hall of the Tarampa Shire Council; sawmills; and numerous business establishments. There are several sporting clubs—the Gatton Race Club and the Amateur Picnic Racing Club—besides numerous cricket, football, and athletic clubs. There is a weekly newspaper, “The Gatton Mail and Lockyer Record.” Gatton is also a strong centre of the mounted infantry.



A BEGINNER (WHITEWAY'S CORN).

The Silverwood Butter Factory, at Gatton, was started in 1905. It is a very well-equipped establishment, situated on a high bank of the Lockyer, to the north of the town. A better site could not be picked, as there is an ample supply of water. The factory is capable of turning out 3 tons of butter per day. The compressor can make 12 tons of ice per day. There is a 9-h.p. engine. Water is obtained from an adjoining well, which provides a never-failing supply. The boiler is 25 h.p. Cream comes in from Lake Clarendon, Helidon, Grantham, and all up the creeks. The factory is not working nearly up to its limit, owing to the fierce competition amongst the various cream



agencies, in consequence of which a considerable amount of cream from the Gatton District goes to Ipswich, Laidley, and Brisbane. A condensing plant is likely to be erected shortly.

Adjoining the factory is the sawmill of Messrs. Jos. Cossart and Son, which was started about eight years ago. It deals almost entirely with hardwood timber—such as ironbark, spotted gum, blue gum—cutting about 450,000 ft. per annum. There is now a great deal of activity in the building trade, especially during the last three years, principally caused by the subdivision of the large estates into farms, which created a demand for the erection of new houses. In addition, many of the older farmers have built better residences. The sawmills proprietary have erected five houses themselves, all of which were let immediately they were completed, and the demand for houses is greater than the supply. The township is rapidly building up on the north side, while on the south side most of the old business premises have been rebuilt. The township has increased in size about one-third during the last three years.



A GOOD LOAD OF CHAFF.

The largest amount of cream produced in West Moreton was sent away from Gatton in 1906.

On the south the farms extend right up to the town, and run back into the heart of the ranges throughout the districts known as Lower Tenthill, Upper Tenthill, Mount Sylvia, and East Haldon. The holdings are of all sizes, from 50 acres or so up to 500 and 1,000 acres. In the rough mountain country there are grazing holdings of several thousand acres. To the south of the town extends the rich level country around Tenthill, which is divided into Lower and Upper Tenthill—all splendid farms. On Blackfellow's Creek you can drive for 35 miles up a rich alluvial valley with farms all the way on either side of





HAYMAKING AT GATTON (P. DWYER'S).

Haymaking at Gatton (P. Dwyer's)



you. Up Ma Ma Creek the settlement extends to Ramsay, a distance of 28 miles. The old stockyard and out-station of Etonvale is now a prosperous farm. Every inch of the land on these creeks has been selected. In the massed settlement on Blackfellow's Creek and tributaries the farmers are chiefly engaged in growing potatoes, dairying, and mixed farming. There are some splendid orangeries on Ma Ma Creek, notably that of Messrs. Philp. On Deep Gully, about 10 miles from Gatton, is a thick German population employed in dairying, pig-raising, and maize-growing. The holdings vary from 40 to 320 acres, but average about 80 acres. The furthest farm on the creek is about 20 miles up. Deep Gully is also known as Ropley, and there are two schools on the creek—a State and a Provisional school. Large quantities of maize are raised in this district, also lucerne, pumpkins, sweet and English potatoes. At Rockside, a few miles further up than Ropley, there is a Provisional school.

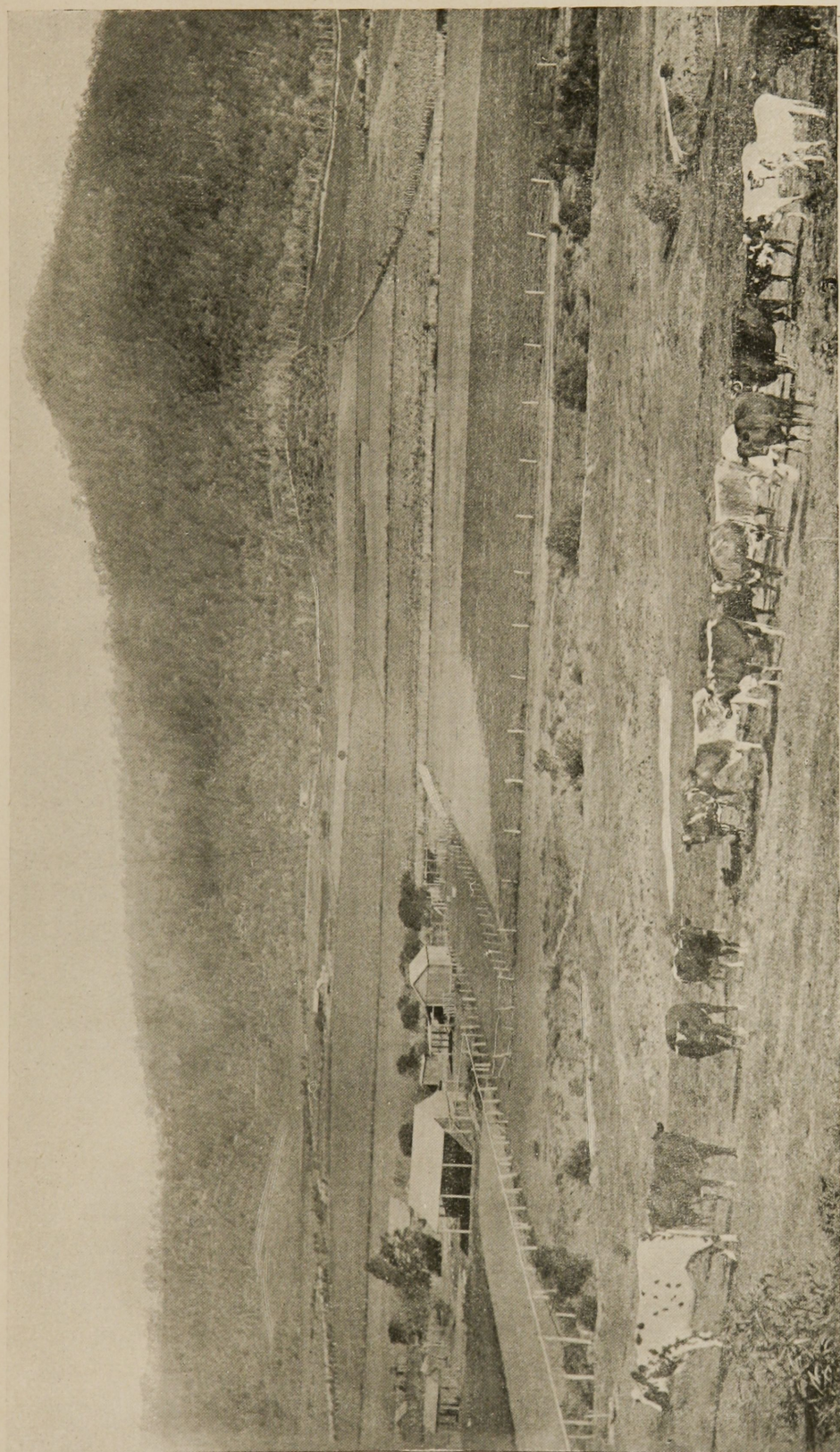


BUTTER FACTORY, GATTON.

The Ropley School, presided over by Mr. W. Collings, has an attendance of about eighty pupils. The soil on Deep Gully is a very rich chocolate loam, suitable for growing any crop for which a heavy soil is required. Blenheim lies about 5 or 6 miles to the north-east, and has about the same population engaged in the same pursuits.

Eastward from Gatton the farms run on to Forest Hill, and on the west to Helidon—Grantham Station, with an area of 6,200 acres, being between the two places. On the north lies "Adare," Mr. Armstrong's property, and all the farms down the Lockyer. Further back again there is grazing, and on the hills grazing and fruit-growing.





RUTHENBERG'S, GATTON.



All these are large pig-raising districts. The bulk of the produce, such as lucerne hay and all mixed crops, goes from Grantham. There is a very heavy consignment of fruit from this locality. On the north side there is a good deal of timber-hauling, chiefly hardwood.

There is an immense output of potatoes from around Gatton to Brisbane and elsewhere. Quantities of fruit, chiefly citrus, are grown around Grantham. Lake Clarendon, which was cut up about eight years ago, is a mass of farms, all with comfortable homesteads, as they were selected by a well-to-do class. Grantham Station, containing magnificent land, and Buaraba Station are still left. On the south side, going towards East Haldon, in among the ranges, at the back of Mount Mistake, are large areas of cattle country owned by Messrs. Feez and Philp. Old East Haldon was once part of Pilton Station on the eastern border of the Darling Downs. The pockets in the creek are suitable for cultivation, but the balance is too rough. There is some splendid timber—cedar, pine, and beech. The soil in the neighbourhood is alluvial.



FARM SCENE, GATTON.

Most of the settlers around Gatton are prosperous independent men. In the old days many of them could not afford to purchase any conveyance and made their trollies themselves, the wheels being made of logs cut into sections and the sections narrowed for the tire. These men are now driving about in hooded buggies drawn by pairs of smart horses. The stages of the farmer's progress was somewhat as follows:—Firstly, home-made trollies; secondly, German wagons; thirdly, cream carts; fourthly and finally, sulkies and hooded buggies. Motors will probably be the next acquisition of these men.



In 1868 the Tenthill District, and, indeed, most of the country about Gatton, was heavily timbered with large ironbark and gum trees. There were only a few farms, not more than six, about Tenthill. All the rest was leasehold. Mr. Walter A. Cross, late of the Railway Department, took up land here in 1868, and is now spending the evening of his days in comfortable retirement on it. He has about 500 acres, 80 of which are in cultivation, and is engaged in dairying. There were no roads when he first came, and the few farmers were growing maize and carting it to Ipswich. None of the big stations were cut up then to any extent. Even fifteen years ago there were still Tenthill, Grantham, Lake Clarendon, Rosewood, Tarampa Stations untouched with the exception of a few blocks of the two latter. At that time the farmers depended chiefly on maize and potatoes, and, owing to the fluctuations in price, living was very precarious. Maize was sometimes as



LOAD OF HAY, GATTON.

low as 9d. per bushel, and potatoes 10s. per ton. About ten years ago, when dairying began to get a hold of the district, things completely changed. A steady income from the monthly cream cheque was assured, and as population increased in the larger centres, and railways were extended in Queensland, there came an increasing demand for maize, lucerne, potatoes, and all those products which are so easily raised in the West Moreton. The position of the farmers is now excellent, and the price of land varies from £3 to £20 per acre.

At the present time there is a great demand for farm hands, and fifty of them could easily be placed at good wages on the farms up Blackfellow's and Ma Ma Creeks.





HARVESTING AT TENT HILL.



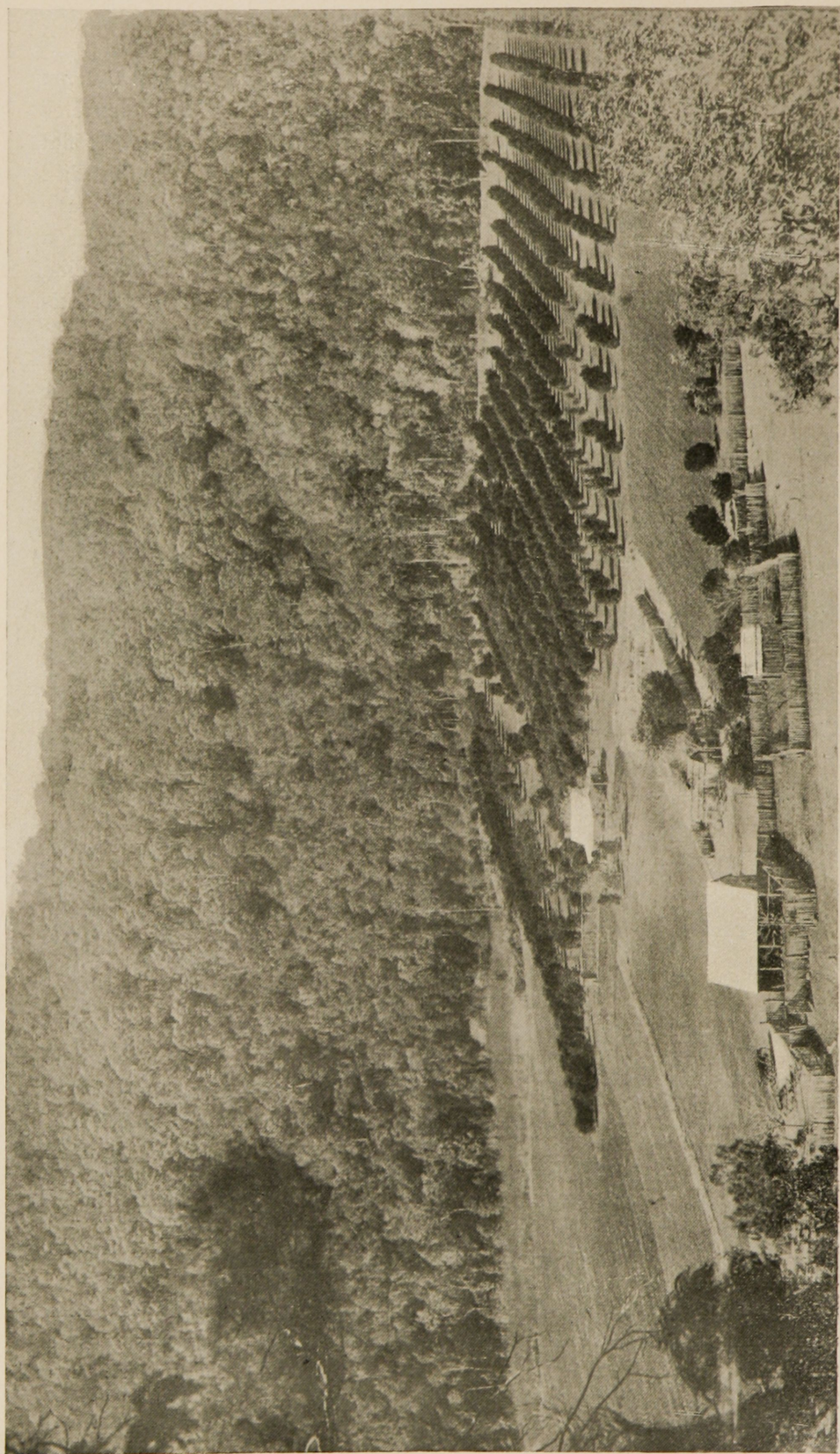
Old Tenthill Head Station is now used as a dairy farm, with about 1,300 acres round it, the property of Mr. E. Jamieson. About 800 acres of it is splendid agricultural land. There is a herd of 200 cows, of which 130 are milking. Water is laid on everywhere from a 13,000-gallon tank supplied with water pumped from the creek. Mr. Jamieson is also irrigating the flat opposite the house. There are farms all the way for 30 miles from Tenthill up Blackfellow's Creek. On Ma Ma Creek the settlers have a store—the Lockyer Farmers' Co-operative Store—and a butcher's shop is situated a little lower down. There is a dense population up both creeks. Mr. J. Logan has a fine property on Blackfellow's Creek, and is one of the largest potato-growers in the Tenthill District.



CATTLE SCENE, JAMIESON'S, TENT HILL.

Half-way between Gatton and Helidon—about 5 miles equidistant—is situated Grantham Railway Station. An immense amount of heavy produce is consigned from here to Brisbane and elsewhere. There are two hotels, and a branch factory of the Queensland Farmers' Co-operative Company was started in June, 1907. This factory is capable of turning out about 10 tons of butter per week, but at the time of visiting it was not working up to its full limit. The cream wagons of the factory run up Blackfellow's Creek 16 miles, Wonga Creek 14 miles, and Deep Gully, collecting the farmers' cream. The cream, after being tested, is all pumped from the receiver to the cooler, and thence passes into vats, where it is cooled by temperators. It then runs by shoots or pipes into the churns. There are two churns. The concussion churn can turn out about 10 boxes of butter, 56 lb. each, and the circular churn about 16 boxes, in an hour. Close to Grantham you have Boxmoor, on the north side of the railway line, about 5,000 acres of fine open forest grazing country, used for





RUBSTEIN'S VINEYARD, MOUNT SYLVIA.



cattle-fattening and also as a depôt for the horses of the Indian horsedealers. Grantham Station, 6,200 acres, of which 4,200 acres are on the north side and 2,000 acres on the south side of the railway line, immediately adjoins the little township. On the north side it comes right up to the Railway Station, and on the south side within about 100 yards of it. It is a fine property, being nearly all rich agricultural soil. From Grantham to Helidon you pass along the flats on the north side of the Lockyer, all magnificent lucerne land. This was all part of Grantham Station at one time, but has been cut up and sold as farms. Back of that again, to the south, are the scrub farms, which extend from Ma Ma Creek to Flagstone Creek, and thence to the top of the range.



A COUNTRY STATE SCHOOLMASTER AND HIS TEAM.

The site of the factory at Grantham was purchased from the proprietor of the run at about £50 per acre. A well was sunk and water obtained at 8 feet; the well was deepened to 20 feet, through rich volcanic soil the whole way. At present the supply is unlimited. Grantham is a beautiful property, at present only used for fattening cattle. It carries about 1,800 cattle and 75 horses. There are some nice blood stock, principally got by the well-known stallion Archie's Son. The Lockyer runs through the property for 3 miles on the south side, and Sandy Creek runs through the northern portion and junctions with it at a rich flat known as the Racecourse Paddock. There are rich river flats on both the Lockyer and Sandy Creeks. At one time Mr. Speering, the owner, went in extensively for dairying, and worked up a herd of 400 milkers. From 170 cows he obtained a return of £135 per month. The difficulty of obtaining suitable labour, however, induced him to return to cattle-fattening. It would be impossible to better some of these Grantham lands for agricultural purposes. It is all rich, chocolate, volcanic soil on the



flats. Part of Grantham that was sold ten or twelve years ago at £2 per acre is now fetching £12 to £20 per acre. It is the opinion of some that choice portions of these flats, for lucerne and dairying purposes, will yet reach £30 per acre. One paddock in particular, known as the Racecourse Paddock, and containing about 450 acres, is well known in the district for its rich alluvial soil and fattening capacities. It is used as a topping-up paddock, and three-year-old bullocks have been turned off it at £8 per head. Every acre of it is covered with a luxuriant coating of mixed grasses, and would grow heavy crops of lucerne all the year round, owing to the water underlying the surface at easy depths. Prairie grass grows luxuriantly during the cooler months all down the Lockyer.

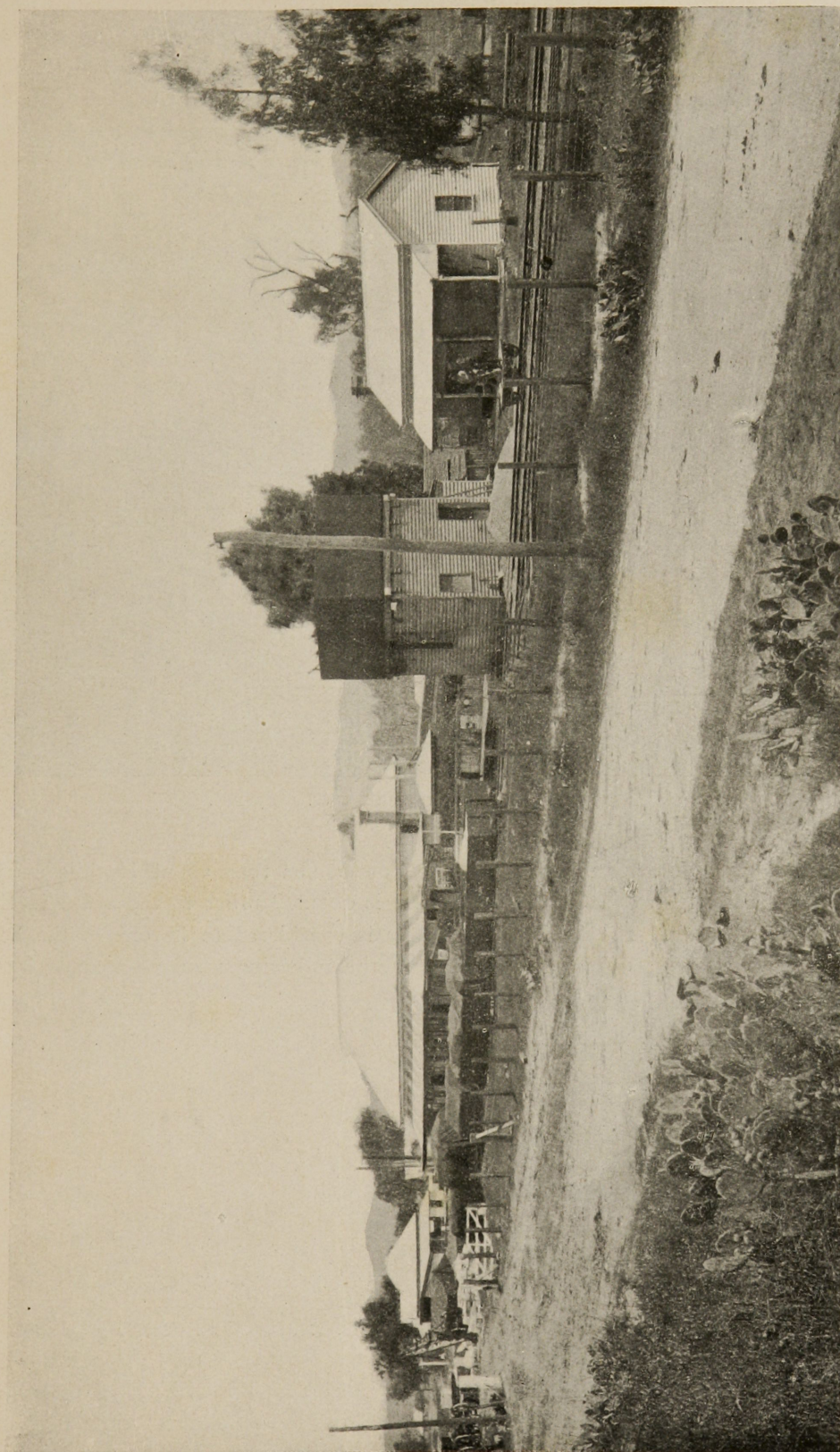


STICKLEN'S FARM, MA MA CREEK.

Helidon is only 5 miles or so from Grantham. There is a good road running parallel with the railway line. The township is situated on the banks of the Lockyer Creek, and the railway line passes through it. It is in close proximity to the mountain spurs, which extend from the Main Dividing Range, and is one of the oldest townships in West Moreton.

It is 72 miles from Brisbane, and about 462 feet above sea-level. The mail train from Brisbane to Sydney waits here for ten minutes for passengers to obtain refreshment. The township, like all others in West Moreton, especially those on the main line, is forging rapidly ahead. There are three hotels and a railway refreshment-room, four churches (Primitive Methodist, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, and Salvation Army), and the Church of England clergyman also visits and holds services. There is a State school with an attendance of 100, and an excellent Convent with a similar attendance; Police Station and Barracks; Post Office; Savings Bank; three cream depôts (Lowood,





HELIDON RAILWAY STATION.



Moreton and Q.M.E.); a branch of the Royal Bank, which is open once a week ; several stores, butcher's shops, and other business establishments. To the north are grazing areas, and away to the south in the hilly scrub country, through which flow Flagstone and Stockyard Creeks, Puzzling Gully, and Monkey Creek, is a thick population of prosperous farmers engaged in dairying, pig-raising, maize, lucerne, and potato growing. Close to the township there are



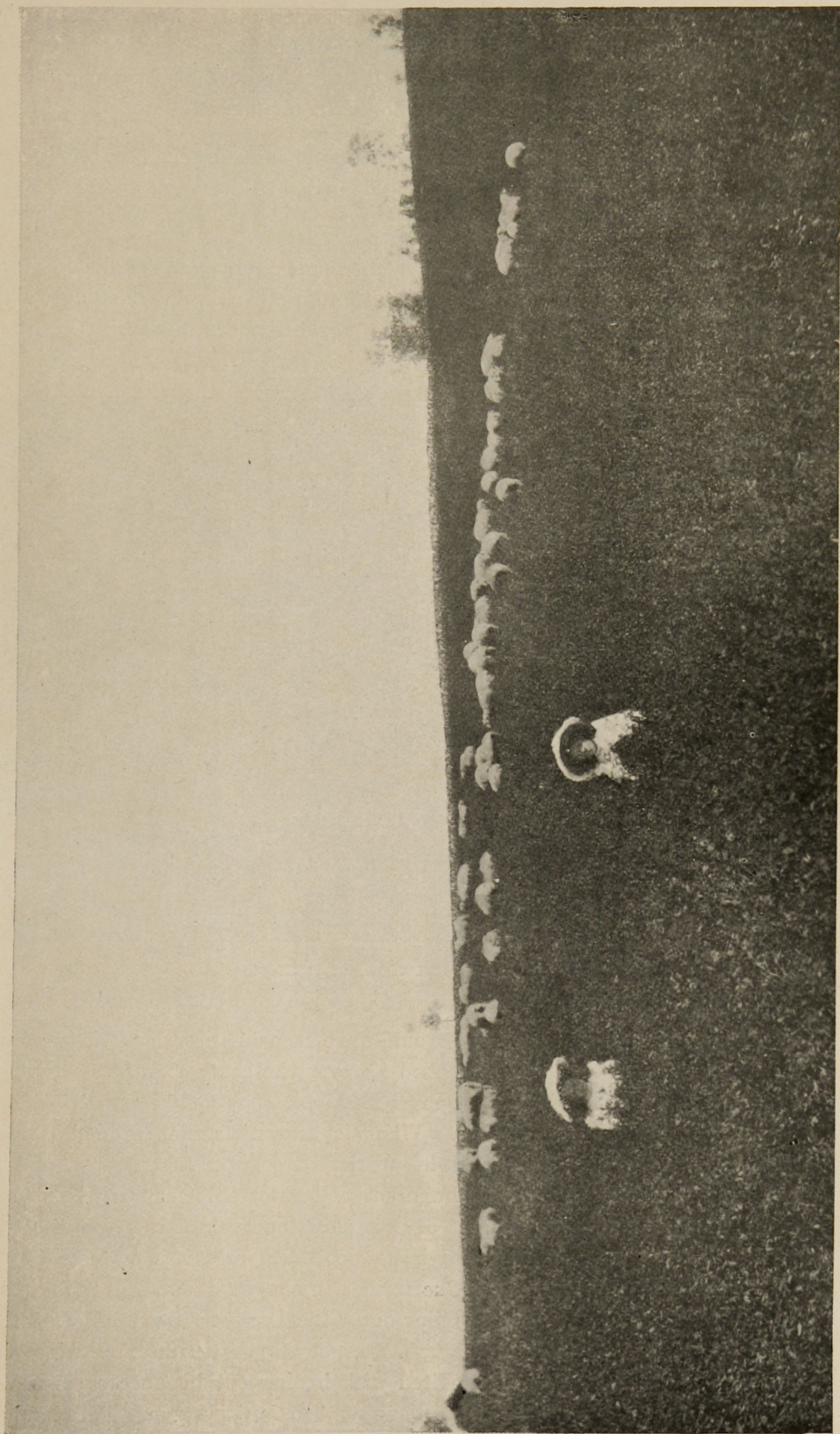
FARM SCENE, MA MA CREEK (J. A. EVANS).

three spas. Two of these are on the Toowoomba road about 1½ mile away ; and the Helidon Spa Company's Spring is about 2 miles to the south in the Helidon Scrub. The Helidon spa water is considered to be one of the best mineral waters in the world, and gives the following results on analysis:—

								Grains per Gal.
Organic matter	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Traces.
Oxide of Iron and Alumina...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Traces.
Chloride of Sodium	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2·99
Carbonate of Sodium...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	212·14
Carbonate of Lithium	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2·68
Carbonate of Calcium	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7·35
Carbonate of Magnesium	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3·39
Silica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0·29
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	228·84
Total Solids on Evaporation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	233·01

North of the railway line there are grazing areas and excellent sandstone for building. Mr. Thomas Wright's quarry, which was opened up in 1895, has already supplied about half a million feet of stone for building purposes. It is situated only a few miles from the town, and the stone is within 3 or 4 feet of the surface. There is a steam crane, registered to lift 5 tons, and all





SHEEP ON LUCERNE, WEST HALDON.



necessary up-to-date appliances. Half the quantity of stone used in the palatial Executive Buildings in Brisbane came from here, the other half from Yangan, near Warwick. The Bremer Bridge was also built of this stone, which goes everywhere, being extensively employed in monumental work.

The building trade is very brisk in Helidon, and in the last four years the town has trebled in size. The neighbouring holdings vary from 80 to 300 acres, and are devoted to agriculture and dairying.

About twenty years ago there was only one public-house and one store and this practically was the township. There were a few farmers growing maize, and getting one crop in two years. There is more money in the little



WEHL VIEW, BOXWOOD, GRANTHAM.

township in one day now than you would have seen in three months in those days. Grantham Station then extended all over the south side from Helidon to Grantham. The forest land from Helidon to Toowoomba was taken up first, and these are old selections. What is known as the Helidon Scrub, running from near the township right up the range, was taken after, and is now all cleared and covered with hundreds of comfortable farms. Grantham Station Trustees cut up a large area of Grantham, and sold it in areas of 30 to 40 acres on long terms. This land is now occupied as farms of from 60 to 200 acres, and is very valuable. One farmer in the year of the drought paid income tax on £1,100. About 2 miles down the Lockyer, from Helidon, the land is unusually rich, and the water close beneath the surface. During the drought of 1902 one farmer is credited with having cut his lucerne paddock eight times, and sold the hay in Brisbane at £15 15s. per ton. This land is all rich loam, about 10 feet deep. Helidon, Grantham, and Gatton, and up



Flagstone and Stockyard Creeks, are all famous for potatoes. Every farmer in the neighbourhood is engaged in dairying. The pick of the land in ten years has gone up (on the Lockyer) from £3 to £15 and £20.

Some useful pioneer work in the direction of experimenting with artificial grasses is being done by Mr. H. Hamlyn, who has 160 acres in the Helidon Scrub, a mile or two from the township. In addition to 22 acres of ordinary cultivation, he has 65 acres of cleared scrub land under *Paspalum dilatatum*, *Paspalum virgatum*, Rhodes, Marrom, Guinea, Giant Couch, and Prairie. He



CATTLE ON PASPALUM (HAMLYN'S).

finds marrom the best drought grass. He also cultivates a giant couch, a vigorous grower and free feeder, which roots at every joint. Paspalum is a good cream-producing grass, and prairie grass the best for winter feed. On this he runs about eighty head of stock, without any hand-feeding, and has thirty-six cows milking. On his property he has an excellent spa. The bore is 250 feet deep, and the water rises to within 40 feet of the surface. His cows get no other water to drink. Cows watered on spa water are certainly a novelty in dairying, but the results are very good, as they keep longer in condition on less feed, and give heavy yields of milk. The spa water is pumped into a dam and syphoned from the dam to the trough, which has a ball tap that regulates the syphon. The trough is 36 feet long, 24 inches wide, and 14 inches deep.

All along the watercourses to the south and south-west of Helidon, such as Flagstone, Stockyard, Puzzling Gully, and Monkey Creeks the scrub farms are as thick as bees. The farmers are principally engaged in dairying, pig-raising, and growing maize, panicum, potatoes, lucerne, sweet potatoes, mangel





SCENE ON DERRYMORE - PUZZLING GULLY.

wurzel, and fruit. The soil varies from a sandy loam to rich chocolate and black. These are all cleared scrub farms, and once the scrub is removed the couch grass comes up strongly on the areas used for grazing. The carrying

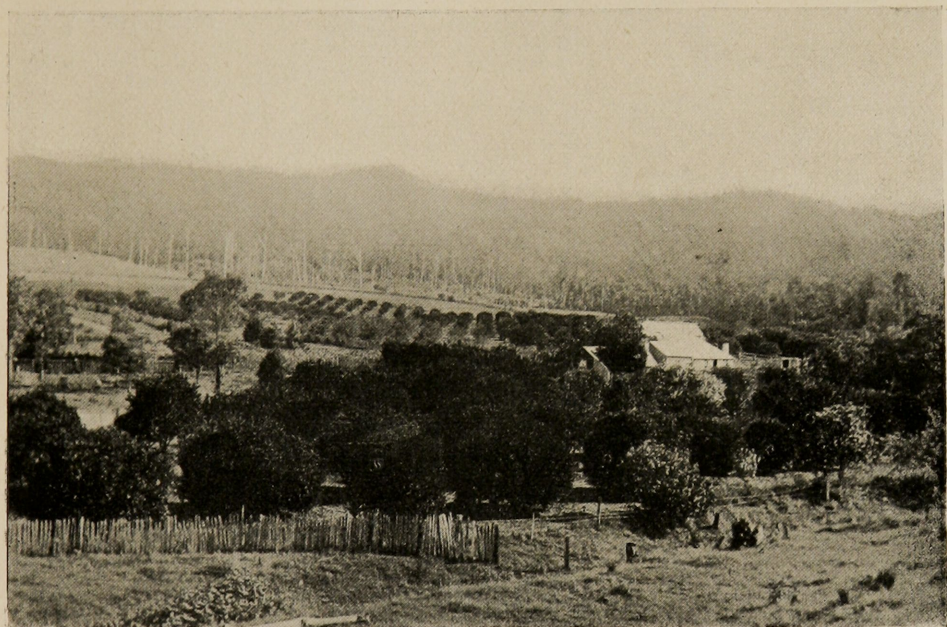


BROOKLYN FARM, WITHCOTT (JOSEPH HUGHES).

capacity of the couch is so great that it will feed a beast to the acre in a good season. Up Puzzling Gully there are several fine farms, such as that of Mr.



Chris. Clark, who is engaged in dairying and sheep-raising, and Mr. W. T. Harris, of Forest Gate, near the Sugarloaf Mountain, a favourite resort for visitors, who go there to admire the magnificent views. As Mr. Harris says, "Let anyone come here and see for themselves that it is quite possible for people coming from cities in the old country to make a success of going on the land here. My wife and myself came from London." When it is remembered that all these lands were dense virgin scrub, now all cleared and cultivated, it will be seen at a glance that success awaits anybody with the pluck and determination to make a home. There is a sawmill on Monkey Creek, about 8 miles from Toowoomba and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile off the main Helidon road, kept by Mr. F. Bonell, who has been in the district twenty-six years. In the early days Helidon Station extended from Murphy's Creek to Etonvale. All this



MERRYFIELD'S ORANGERY.

tract of country is now farms. In 1882 the whole of Monkey Creek was dense scrub. The first road from the Downs to Brisbane came this way, and the old telegraph poles are still standing.

The farms now vary from 80 to 160 acres, and every inch of the land is taken up. New houses are going up everywhere to replace the more primitive buildings of an earlier day.

Mr. A. Bigg has a fine orchard, "Merryfields," about 4 miles from Toowoomba, on the Helidon road, which is a practical object lesson to any immigrant from Britain possessing any knowledge of fruit culture. Twenty years ago the greater part of the country below the Range was an almost impenetrable scrub, with here and there a clearing. Mr. Bigg and family took up a portion of it. As soon as the scrub was burnt off a crop of corn was planted with the hoe, and returned 80 bushels of maize to the acre. Vegetables



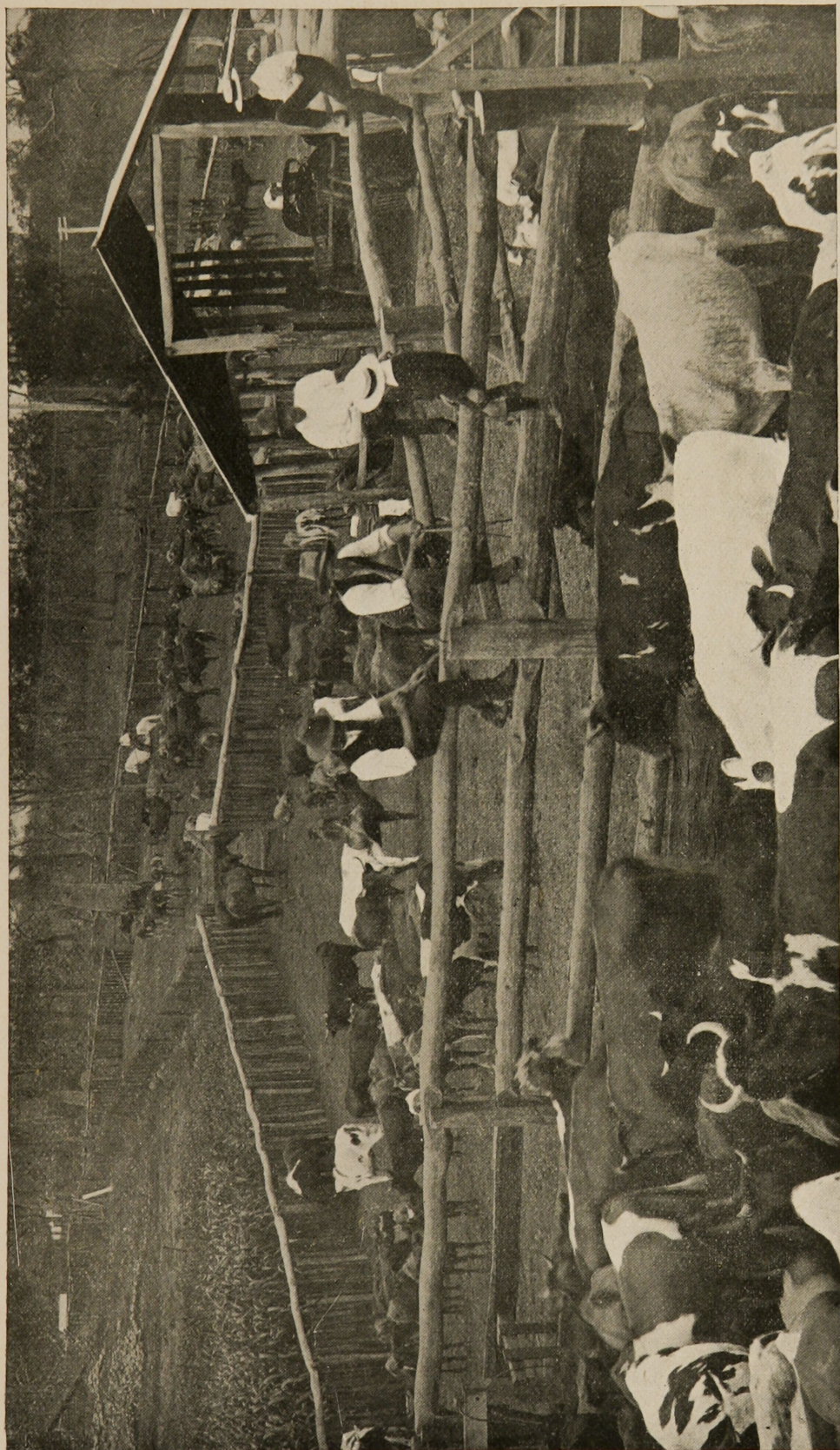
were planted, the cabbages and cauliflowers fetching 6s. per dozen in the Brisbane market, and the peas 3d. per lb. While the fruit trees were growing the place was made self-supporting. The orangery at present is 15 acres in extent, some of the trees being 25 feet high, and there are 6 acres of both table and wine grapes. There are also 3 acres of choice plums from Japan, semi-tropical fruits of all kinds, as well as European plums, apples, pears, walnuts, prunes, and almonds. The fruit is sold locally and exported. The district is evidently the home of citrus fruit, and the quality of the soil is such that while immense crops have been garnered no manure has been required. On the opposite side from Mr. Bigg is Mr. Pentecost's orchard, a magnificent property, containing every variety of fruit and graceful palms, and one of the show places of the district.



MERRYFIELD'S VINEYARD.

Two of the best farms on Monkey Creek are those of Messrs. A. Rowbotham and Joseph Hughes. Mr. Rowbotham has been there for about twenty-five years, and carries twenty-five to thirty cows on 40 acres. Whatever is grown is fed to the cows and pigs. Mr. Hughes has 160 acres that was all dense scrub twenty years ago. It is now all cleared, and on this he carries 160 head of stock. There are 14 acres of cultivation; the rest is down in couch grass. *Paspalum* and prairie grass are also grown. The practice is, after burning off the scrub, to plant prairie, which is splendid winter feed. About forty-five cows are being milked, and the cream goes to Toowoomba. There are very extensive barns and outbuildings. All the timber for these was cut on the place, and there is some beautiful furniture in the house made from silky oak grown on the creek. The big hayshed, 30 feet by 30 feet, is built without rafters and without ridge-capping, the iron being bent over and bolted. It is





W. H. WAGNER'S CATTLE DIP—300 HEAD GOING THROUGH.



so constructed that the drays can come right in and unload on either side. There are a multitude of contrivances for lessening work, and the holding is a model of good management and neatness. It would take too long to describe all these, but in the barn there are sliding windows to enable the maize husks to be thrown outside from any height of the main heap, and shoots for carrying the husked cobs to any part of the floor. Anyone who has experienced the disorder in a barn during husking time will appreciate this idea. Amongst other arrangements are an excellent beehouse, silo, dairy, with deep concrete well and shutter ventilators, and gates that you can open with your foot if you happen to be carrying a bucket of milk in each hand. Beneath the main barn is a large space for vehicles, so arranged that a loaded wagon run underneath can be unloaded through a square door in the flooring. In addition to the



PIGS AND WALLABY.

ordinary stock, crops, and dairying, a large number of turkeys, fowls, pigs, and pigeons are kept. A quantity of honey is turned out yearly. Mr. Hughes does not believe in having all his eggs in one basket, and his farm is a practical illustration of the variety of products that can be raised on a small place.

Returning to the railway line, we come to Murphy's Creek, which is the most westerly of the townships in West Moreton. It is situated at the foot of the Main Range, about 10 miles from Helidon. It is nearly 800 feet above the sea. There is a hotel, store, and a few houses. An excellent quarry exists in the neighbourhood. From there up to Toowoomba the train climbs the ranges through rough picturesque country, chiefly devoted to grazing. Magnificent views of the surrounding district and the close settlement along the fertile Lockyer Valley can be obtained as the "iron horse" mounts higher and higher to the lofty plateau of the Darling Downs.



## STANLEY.

THE Stanley Electorate, comprising about 1,650 square miles, is situated to the north-west of Ipswich. It comprises some of the finest land in the State, either for agricultural or pastoral purposes. The river flats and scrubs are especially well adapted for lucerne and maize, whilst large drafts of fat cattle are turned off the rich and well-watered pasturages in the vicinity of the watershed of the Brisbane and Stanley Rivers. Dairying has now got a firm hold on the district, and is yearly expanding. Nestle's Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Company's factory at Toogoolawah is a flourishing concern, and the Standard Company has erected another such factory at Colinton, on the west bank of Emu Creek. The Esk Co-operative Dairy Company's butter factory



CABOONBAH CATTLE.

is turning out a large quantity of butter, and there are numerous cream depôts both at Lowood and Esk. Immense quantities of grapes are being grown a few miles from Coominya, on the Brisbane Valley line. Timber-getting is also a flourishing industry, giving employment to hundreds of men. The slopes of many of the mountain ranges are heavily timbered with immense cypress pine-trees, and hardwood is plentiful everywhere. The country about the Blackbutt Range will yet prove a veritable goldmine to the State. In addition to its rich volcanic soil, eminently suited for agriculture, it contains millions of feet of the finest hoop-pine, bunya-pine, blackbutt, yellow-wood, ironbark, beech, and other timbers.





CA BOONBAH STATION — CATTLE SCENE.





RIVER SCENE.



The district is watered by the Brisbane and Stanley Rivers, the former rising in the Cooyar Ranges, and the latter near Crohamhurst. These rivers represent the forks of a Y, one branch of which starts from the north-west and the other from the north-east of the district. Near Caboonbah they junction, and the combined rivers become the Brisbane, which continuing in a southerly direction receives the Lockyer at Fernvale, above Lowood. Lower down, the river is joined by the Bremer at Riverview, near Redbank—this stream coming in from the Main Range to the south—and the united forces of these four big watercourses and their tributaries move down upon Brisbane. Few provinces in Queensland are blessed with such an abundant water supply as West Moreton.

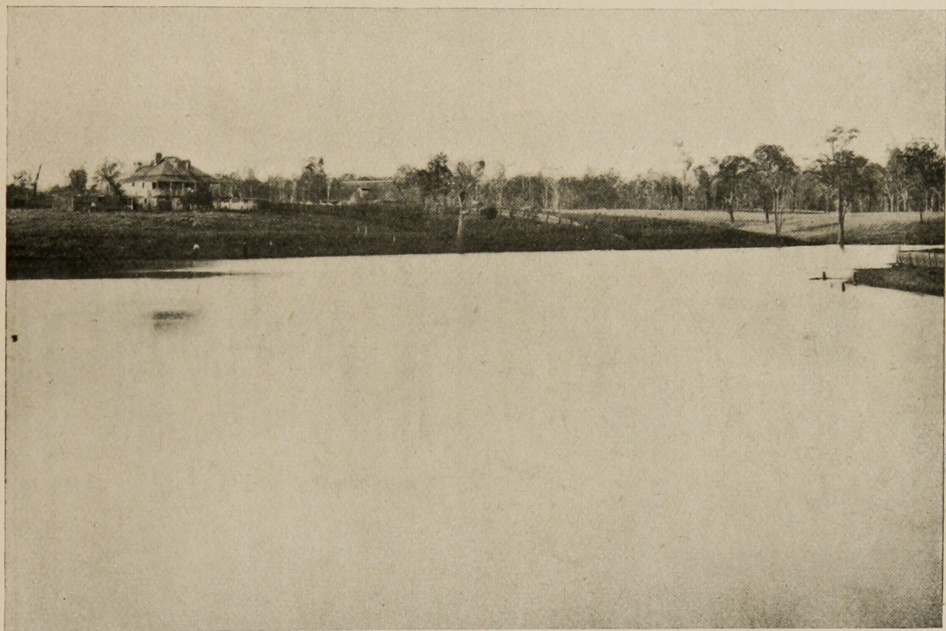


LOWOOD.

The Stanley District is traversed by the Brisbane Valley Railway, which runs from Ipswich north-westerly to Kannangur, a distance of 59 miles, passing through the townships of Lowood, Esk, and Toogoolawah. This line is now to be continued to Blackbutt, 28 miles further, which extension will tap the magnificent timber areas in that locality. A daily train is now running between Kannangur and Ipswich, and, as railway communication between that city and Brisbane is frequent, the residents of the Upper Brisbane Valley are placed within a few hours' journey of the metropolis. In the train journey from Ipswich to Lowood, a distance of 21 miles, there is little to interest the traveller. The train passes through monotonous country, thickly covered with light timber. This, however, by no means represents the real facts of the case, as down the Brisbane River, from that township to its junction with the Bremer, are some fine properties and rich farming areas.



Around the Pine Mountain, about 5 or 6 miles to the north of Ipswich, is situated one of the most picturesque settlements in West Moreton. There are to be found the homes of many of the pioneer farmers of the State. From the summit of the mountain, which rises to a height of several hundred feet, and owes its name to the giant cypress trees with which it was originally covered, a splendid view of the surrounding country can be obtained. Ipswich and numerous small townships can be clearly discerned. The gradual undulating slopes to the west are a chessboard of farms. There is a butter factory in the neighbourhood. Dairying, maize, lucerne, and potato growing, and pig-raising are the chief occupations of the settlers. Many of the farmers were originally engaged in agricultural pursuits in the old land, and consider the attractions of Queensland for the dairyman and tiller of the soil to be superior to anything Great Britain can offer. Some years ago the oldest resident of the Pine Mountain gave his opinion in these words to a local writer: "Why, whereas



LAGOON AT LOWOOD

only one person out of a thousand may succeed in the old land, everyone who has a mind to can do so here. I have been here for over thirty years, and I can honestly say that what I believe we want is to have many more thousands of people settled on our lands. You see, we get two springs here, and if one crop should fail us we have a chance of getting another later on in the year." This man had grown oats which attained the height of 9 feet 6 inches without losing any of their succulent properties, 30 bushels of wheat to the acre, and had secured as many as 40 dozen oranges from one tree. A few miles from the Pine Mountain there is some fine agricultural land on the Brisbane River, from which heavy crops of maize and potatoes have been obtained—from 40 to 80 bushels of maize per acre and from 6 to 10 tons of potatoes. Around Fairney



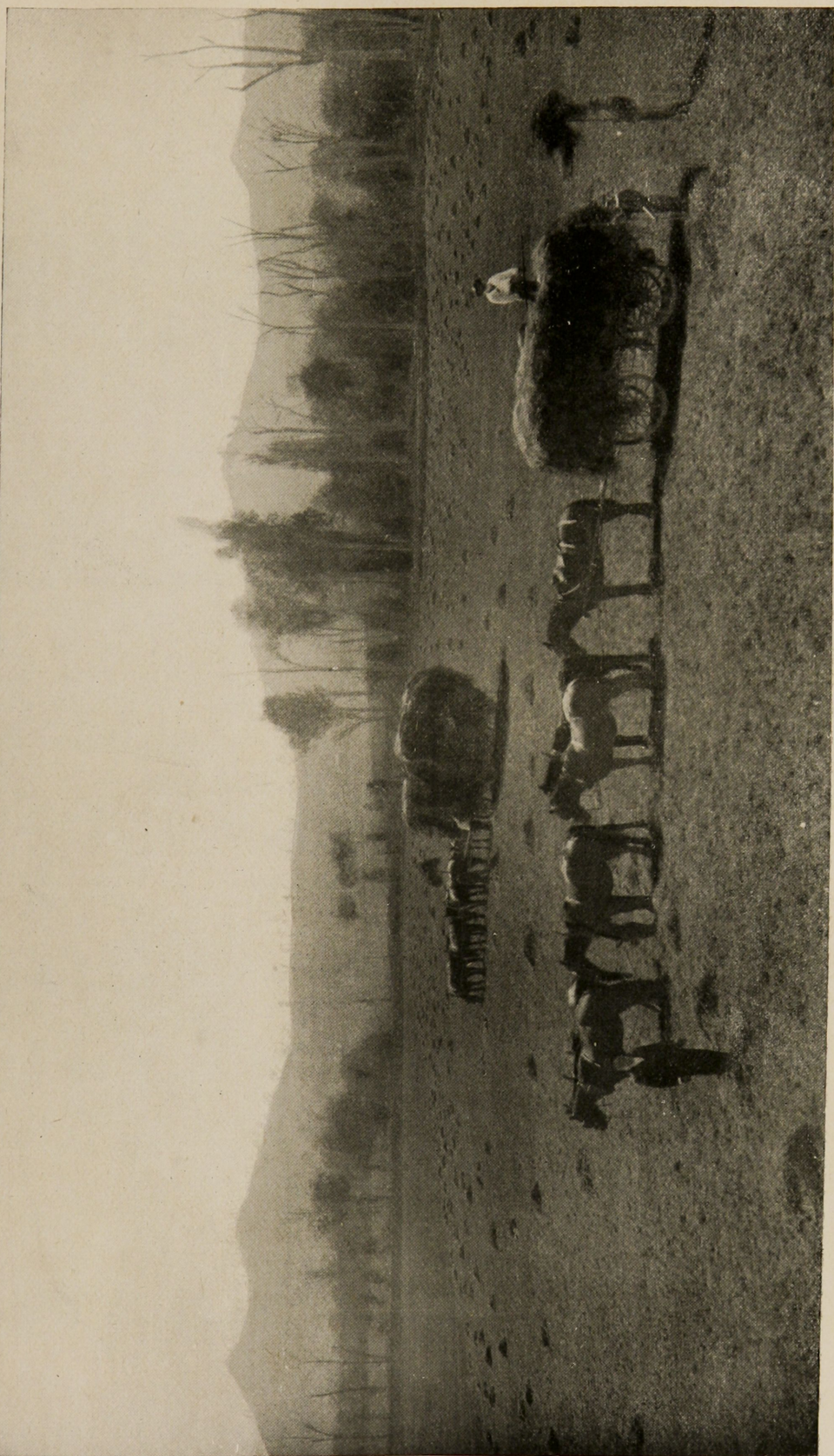
View and the Wivenhoe Pocket the soil is very productive, and large quantities of oats and lucerne have been raised there. In the vicinity of Fernvale a lucerne paddock of  $9\frac{3}{4}$  acres was cut monthly, giving a yield of 12 to 13 tons of hay per cutting, or a total of 144 tons for the year. At £2 per ton this is £288. An old settler in the neighbourhood thus summed up his experience to a local interviewer some years ago: "Was I farming in the old country? Yes; in Herefordshire, my native home. Why did I give it up, you ask? Simply because I did not make it pay. I was losing £100 a year. I came here and settled down thirty-three years ago. In all, I have 300 acres. I have only had 20 acres under cultivation, believing that it is better not to attempt too much; that area I farmed properly, and never had a yield of less than 30 bushels of maize to the acre. The balance of my land I set apart for grazing purposes. I have certainly done well. You see me as I am now. I have let my farm and live at my ease."



STREET SCENE AT LOWOOD.

Lowood is a prosperous little township situated on the eastern edge of the Rosewood Scrub, and with the Brisbane River running at its feet. It consists of a Courthouse, Police Barracks, two churches (Methodist and Roman Catholic), with various Lutheran churches in the neighbourhood, a bank—the Royal—a sawmill, State school, School of Arts, several cream depôts, and numerous business establishments. It is the centre of a dense farming population occupied in dairying, maize, potato, and lucerne growing, and pig-raising. In 1906, which was a good year, Lowood sent away about 3,000 tons, nearly all agricultural produce. There is a large German element in the population, and these men have proved splendid colonists. The average area of the surrounding selections is about 80 acres. Nearly all these men are independent, owning





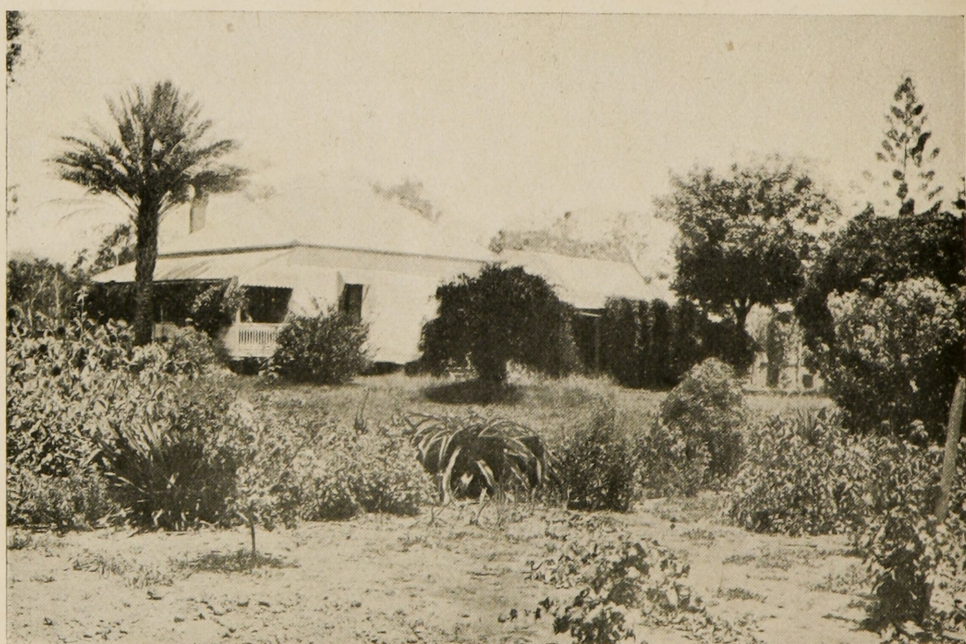
HAYMAKING AT SHINE'S FARM, WIVENHOE.





SHINE'S FARM, WIVENHOE.

their farms, making a good living out of dairying and agriculture, and with a nest-egg in the bank. To the south-west of the township is the Rosewood Scrub—formerly a dense jungle of brigalow, but now all cleared and covered



MR. JONES'S RESIDENCE, WIVENHOE POCKET.

with prosperous homes—a hive of industry. To the east are the rich slopes and flats of the Brisbane River. The Lockyer Junction is about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile from



Lowood to the north. Lowood is at the meeting point of the three electorates of Stanley, Lockyer, and Rosewood. Five miles from Lowood, to the north-west, is the hamlet of Tarampa (in the Lockyer Electorate), with a church, State school, public-house, store, blacksmith's shop, &c. From Lowood you can follow a level road to Gatton, 24 miles distant, through the rich alluvial lands of the repurchased estates of Tarampa, Rosewood, and Lake Clarendon. The Rosewood Scrub belongs to the Fassifern Electorate.



PATRICK'S CATTLE, CLARENDON.

From Lowood the train runs on past Clarendon to Coominya, which is the railway station for Bellevue, the beautiful home of Mr. and Mrs. C. Lumley Hill. Bellevue is situated on the south bank of the Brisbane River, about 6 miles from Coominya, 30 miles from Ipswich, and 53 miles from Brisbane. The homestead is one of the show places of Queensland, and is the centre of a generous hospitality. The comfort and luxury of a city residence, with all the charm of country life, awaits the visitor to this kindly home. The house stands on elevated grounds commanding sweeping views of river and mountain. The garden is picturesque with a great variety of trees and shrubs, some of them rare. The river abounds in cod and mullet, and the lagoons swarm with duck and other game. There is also plenty of boating to be got on the river. Originally Bellevue formed part of the late Colonel North's estate, and comprised several hundreds of square miles, extending from the other side of Ipswich to Mount Brisbane. Subsequently it was acquired by Messrs. Simpson and Campbell. It was at one time used as a sheep station, but as such it was





CROP OF MAIZE AND PUMPKINS (PATRICK'S, CLARENDON).





LINDE'S FARM, BELLEVUE.

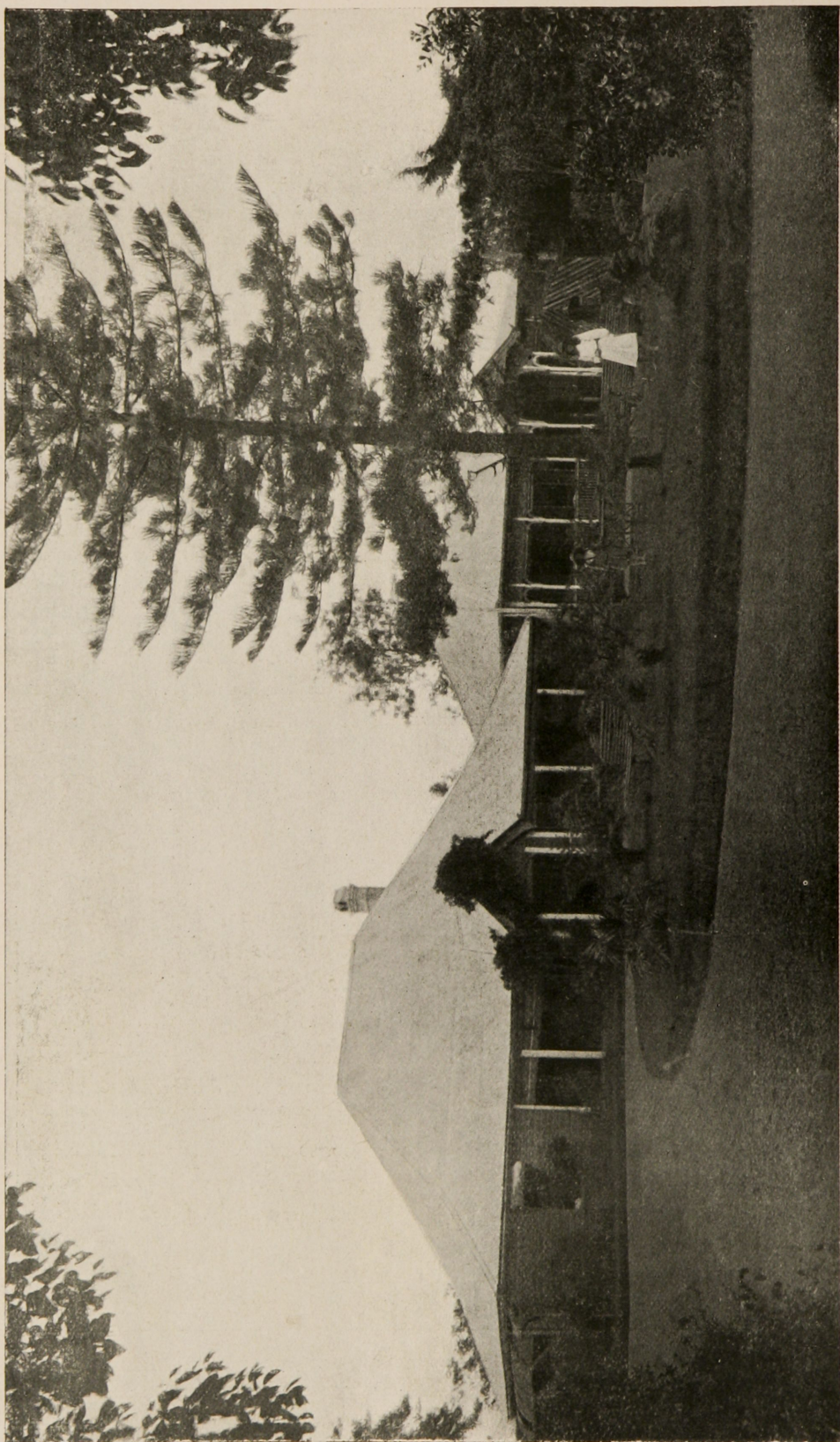
not a success, owing to the prevalence of grass seed. It was next used as a fattening depôt for store cattle. Many years ago the late Mr. G. C. Taylor became owner of Bellevue, and resided there until his death. Bellevue is now



BELLEVUE CATTLE ON RIVER.

used as a stud-breeding establishment for pure Hereford cattle, and contains about 14,000 acres. The Brisbane River runs right through the property,





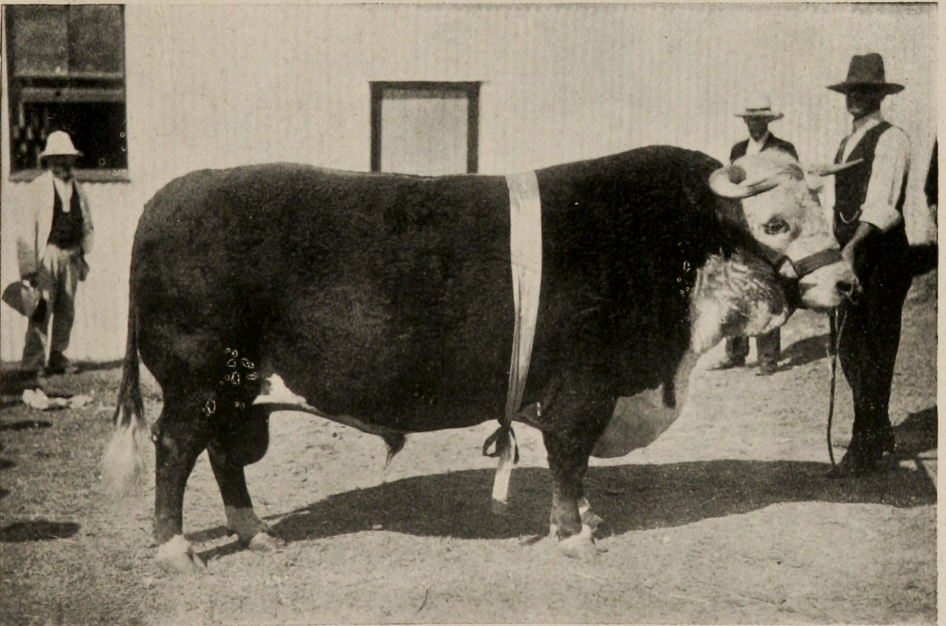
BELLEVUE HOUSE.





VIEW ON RIVER AT BELLEVUE.

with a never-failing supply of water for stock and irrigation. In addition, there are three wells with windmills, water being obtained in one instance at 12 feet. The estate is all subdivided into small paddocks, and is a splendid



FIELD MARSHAL.

fattening country. There are about 2,000 acres of first-class arable land along the river. The balance is well-grassed ridgy country. There are about 100



acres in cultivation, of which 80 are under plough. Portions of the estate contain really ideal land for farms, and would readily find purchasers or tenants. The mixed natural grasses have great fattening properties, and there is an abundance of paspalum and prairie grass on the flats. The crops grown are chiefly panicum and lucerne for the stock. The whole of the land is ring-barked. There are 600 breeding cows; 100 first-class stock with pedigrees, and 500 others very nearly purebred. Mr. Lumley Hill prefers the Herefords to the Shorthorns as they are hardier. The young stock are sold, and go all over Queensland. Thirty young bulls were sent to the Burnett District last year. About fifteen bulls are kept for use. Of these, one was imported from England, one from Victoria, and one from Reynolds, of Tocal, in New South Wales. The Hereford bull, Field Marshal, was recently purchased in Victoria by Mr. C.



MAIA 29TH, WITH CALF AT FOOT.

Lumley Hill from Mr. Yelland, who bought the bull in New Zealand. He is a wonderfully massive beast, and competent judges estimated that his dressed weight would be 1,630 lb. He has a good masculine head and neck, denoting constitution and vigour, broad chest, great width of floor-chest, specially even underline, grand spring of rib, tubular barrel, broad back and loin, well set on tail, with excellent quarters and twist. He also possesses that much-needed desideratum—short legs; and, notwithstanding his great weight, is very active and quick on his feet, with superb action. Field Marshal was bred by Messrs. Buchan and Levett, New Zealand, and calved 2nd October, 1899. He is by Balsford 16534 (imp.), dam Mayfield Leonora 5th. As a yearling he was first at Palmerston and Otago; as three years and over, first at Dunedin and Invercargill; Champion of Victoria in 1904 and 1905. In addition to Bugler (sire, Nonpariel; dam, Bountiful II., by Albion), bred by Mr. A. E. Hughes, Winter-



cott, Leominster, Herefordshire (who has taken over 500 prizes in England with his Herefords, Albion bred by him being three times Champion of the Royal Agricultural Society of England), Mr. Hill has a long list of prize-winners. Royal Windsor II., a red bull with white face, two years ten months, by Allandale-Mantilla 10th, was second for bulls two years and under three years at Brisbane Exhibition of 1907. Majestic, one year nine months, by Rossmore (imp.)—Maritana 23rd, was first in his class for bulls one year and under two years. For cows, three years and over, Maia 29th, five years eleven months, by Cynthus 19th—Maia 12th, was first in her class and reserved champion. A heifer, Crocus 43rd, was first in her class and champion.



BELLEVUE HEREFORDS.

In addition to the stud Herefords a Suffolk Punch stallion and twenty-five mares are kept, and horses bred for farm use and for sale. A few very well-bred mares are running on the station, also trotting horses, some of them by Harold.

To the north, between Bellevue and Mount Brisbane, is situated the Deep Creek settlement. The country is lightly timbered downs with rich black soil. Formerly these settlers were only engaged in grazing, but of late years dairying and agriculture has replaced it to a great extent. There are some splendid farms on Deep Creek, and the soil would be difficult to surpass.

A few miles to the south-west of Coominya there are extensive vineyards. The largest of these is Mr. W. J. Gutteridge's Norman Vineyard, situated on a sandy ridge overlooking a big lagoon. Mr. Gutteridge formerly held a large area of land for dairying, but sold all of it except the present site of his vineyard. This was considered so worthless that he was unable to dispose of it.





IN THE NORMAN VINEYARD.



Noticing that the soil of the sandy ridge was always moist, he decided to try grape-growing. His attempt was crowned with magnificent success. He now has 32 acres of vines, and sends away thousands of cases of fruit every year. The Norman Vineyard is now one of the sights of the district. From a high wooden tower erected by the proprietor in the vineyard you can view such an expanse of vines as are seldom seen in a lifetime—acres of grapes surround you. His success has encouraged others, and now there is quite a group of wine-makers and grape-growers all doing a profitable business.

From Coominya to Esk, 15 miles, the train runs through timbered country, but fine grazing land.

Esk is situated on the Brisbane Valley line, 67 miles from Brisbane, 43 miles from Ipswich, and 366 feet above the sea. It is a great cattle and dairy-ing centre. It has been called the Central Cattle Depôt of West Moreton. It is the focus of a wide timber area, and large quantities of hardwood and pine are



W. J. GUTTERIDGE'S NORMAN VINEYARD, COOMINYA.

continually coming in, both in log and sawn. Redbank and Sandy Creeks junction about  $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile to the south of Esk, and the name of the stream changes to Sandy Creek. There are two sawmills always working, and the sawn stuff comes in from the outside mills, principally from Mount Byron and Mount Brisbane. Farming and fruit-growing are extensively carried on in the neighbourhood. There is a particularly fine orchard of 5 to 6 acres about 1 mile west of the town; oranges, lemons, plums, &c., are grown in profusion. The township lies at the foot of Glen Rock, a curiously-shaped mountain which rises abruptly to a height of 500 feet immediately to the east of the town. This has the effect of warding off the rays of the early morning sun. Indeed, in the winter months it is past 10 o'clock before his solar majesty presents himself to view. Some





VIEW OF ESK.





SAWMILLS, ESK.

of the finest cattle-fattening properties in Australia are situated in the neighbourhood of Esk. Many of these have been subdivided and sold as farms, and others are being cut up rapidly for settlement. The great development caused



BRIDGE AT ESK.

by the success of the dairying industry has swept like a wave over the Esk neighbourhood. Anyone who knew the district fifteen or twenty years ago



would hardly recognise it. A scattered handful of people engaged in cattle-raising and timber-getting are giving place to dense farming settlement engaged in dairying and agriculture. The township itself, which has a population of 600, with a district population of about 4,000, is forging rapidly ahead. There is a Courthouse, Police Barracks, Post Office, four churches (Roman Catholic, Church of England, Presbyterian, and Methodist), two banks (the Royal and Queensland National), four hotels in town and nine others in the district, two sawmills, several large stores, and numerous business places. A weekly newspaper, "The Esk Record," circulates widely in the district. Two doctors and two solicitors have practices in the township. The educational advantages are ample. There is a large State school, with an attendance of 200, at Esk, and other State schools at Biarra, Mooretown, and Mount Beppo. In addition, Provisional



LOADING TIMBER, ESK RAILWAY STATION.

schools have been erected at Harlin, Colinton, Mount Brisbane, Ivory Creek, and Gregor's Creek. The Esk Pastoral and Agricultural Society holds an annual show for live stock and produce, and owns a fine showground, with grandstand and racecourse. In 1906 Esk sent away nearly 3,500 tons, produce and live stock, including about 8,000 cattle and over 3,000 pigs, and received inwards over 2,000 tons, including live stock. The township has practically doubled in size in the last five years, although it has been in existence for a considerable time. This impetus has been caused by the cutting up of estates and the development of the dairying industry, and the superior conditions under which agriculture and fruit-growing can now be carried on. There are about 200 buildings in the town where a few years ago you could count them on your fingers. Twenty buildings have gone up in the last twelve months, and at the time of the present writer's visit a large two-story hotel was being erected in the centre of the township, at a cost of £3,000. This is the largest hotel in





BULLOCK TEAMS, ESK.

the district. Esk, on account of its position and the new trade it will command as further areas are opened, must grow. A half-acre lot in the main street recently fetched £375.



ESK BUTTER FACTORY.

Cream and farm produce, chiefly maize and potatoes, come in from Mount Beppo, 12 miles to the north-east. These holdings are all cleared scrub farms

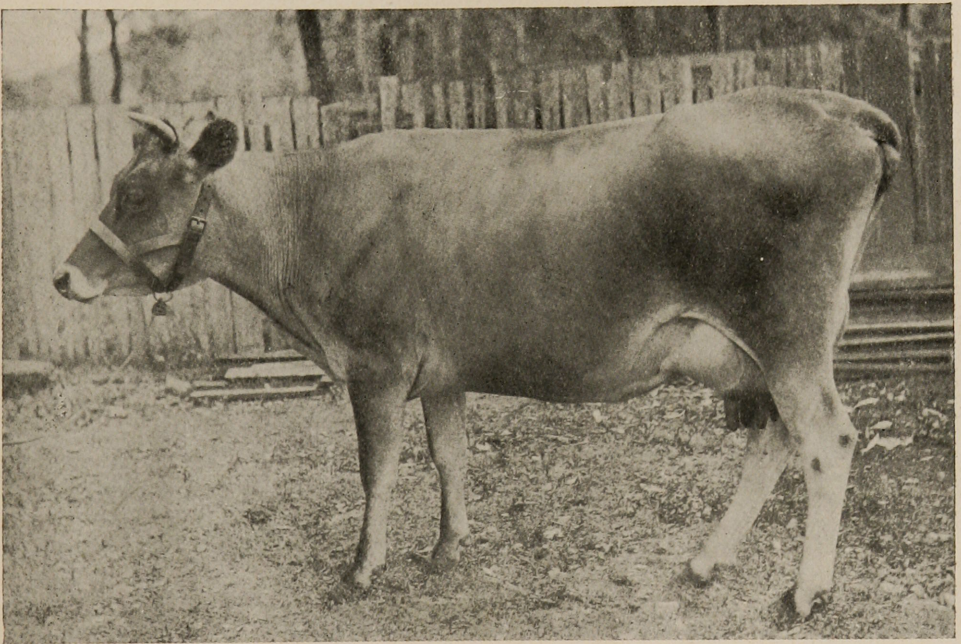




DAIRY CATTLE, ESK.



of from 160 to 200 acres. Coal Creek, in the same direction, 8 miles north-east of Esk, sends in the same description of produce. Biarra, 10 miles west, and Deep Creek, from 12 to 20 miles to the east, send in similar lines. Red-bank, close into Esk on the south-west, has a small farming population on holdings of about 160 acres. Station products, such as fat cattle, hides, &c., come in from the surrounding stations of Eskdale, Mount Brisbane, Mount Byron, Caboonbah, and others. Eskdale, a very fine grazing property, and one that is still used solely for grazing and fattening, lies 18 miles west of Esk. This station was singularly fortunate in the 1902 drought, and had a plentiful supply of grass and water through that trying period. A thousand of the Eskdale fat bullocks were sold at £12 per head in 1902. Some of this station is now being offered for settlement.



A GOOD JERSEY COW.

The pig-buyers of the principal metropolitan bacon factories visit Esk and truck consignments of fat pigs regularly to Brisbane. Local auction sales of horses, cattle, and pigs are also held monthly.

One of the largest butter factories in West Moreton is situated at Esk. The Esk Co-operative Dairy Company's factory was originally started by the Queensland Meat Export Agency Company about three years ago, and sold to the farmers, who run it as a co-operative concern, about a year or so ago. Although it is capable of dealing with 20 tons of butter per week, it was turning out about 9 tons per week at the time of the present writer's visit. There are about 200 suppliers, and the cream comes from as far as 35 miles, chiefly from the north of Esk. Considerable difficulty was experienced in the past owing to the fact that the train from Kannangur only ran four times a week. Now that a daily service has been instituted and the line is to be continued to



Blackbutt, matters look bright for the company. The working plant includes an 18-h.p. boiler, two churns, capable of holding 600 and 800 lb. of cream respectively, and of turning out 250 lb. and 350 lb. of butter respectively per hour. This fetches from 10½d. per lb. for first class to 9½d. per lb. for second class. The cream tanks are in an upper story, and the cooler—hollow pipe arrangements filled with brine—work in the tanks on the see-saw principle, thoroughly cooling the cream. The factory is lit throughout by electricity. During the twelve months ending 31st December, 1907, 1,248,320 lb. of cream were treated, yielding a return of 567,199½ lb. of butter.



DONKEYS ON BUARABA STATION.

There are several receiving cream depôts for other butter factories at Esk. The Moreton Butter Factory, Limited, of Turbot street, Brisbane, have recently opened one. This is a strong company, having receiving depôts at Helidon, Grantham, Gatton, Forest Hill, Laidley, Calvert, Rosewood, Fernvale, Lowood, Harlin, Moor, Harrisville, Wilson's Plains, Mumbilla, Roadvale, and Boonah. This gives one a fair idea of the ramifications of some of these butter-making companies. During the last two years the export of Queensland butter has doubled, and in January, 1908, there was more butter in the cold stores in Brisbane than ever was before in the history of Queensland. Suppliers have a varied choice as to where to send their cream, and, by purchasing a few shares in any of the co-operative factory companies, they obtain a bonus into the bargain.

The dimensions of the timber industry in the Stanley may be gauged by the fact that there are two sawmills at Esk and six others in the district. Those at Esk are owned respectively by Messrs. Lars Anderson and A. Blank. Those in the district include W. Denning's, at Mount Brisbane; Brown and



Broad's, at Mount Byron; Lars Anderson's, at Kipper Creek; two at Mooretown, belonging respectively to D. C. Paterson and Brown and Broad; and one at Milmerby, Deep Creek, owned by Hancock Bros. A large quantity of timber, chiefly hardwood and pine, comes from Kipper Creek, Deep Creek, and Milmerby, also from Blackbutt, to Mooretown mill. The Mount Byron timber goes principally to mills about Mount Brisbane. The Redbank timber comes into Esk.



BUARABA STOCKMEN PREPARING TO START.

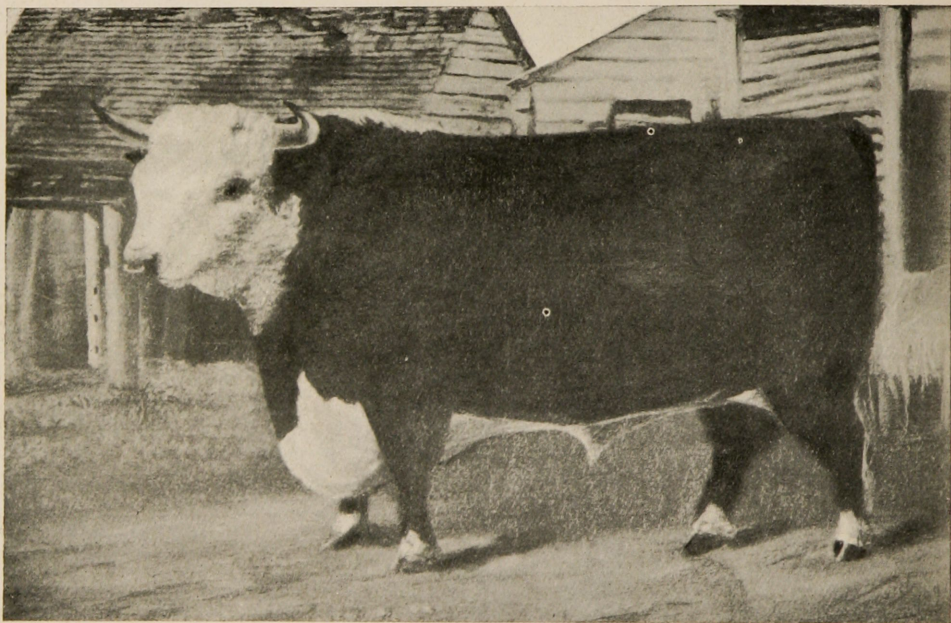
Mr. Lars Anderson, who has sawmills at Esk, Kipper Creek, and Blackbutt—the largest being at Esk—chiefly cuts hardwood, although pine comes in from Glenmaurie, 14 miles west of Toogoolawah. The hardwood—spotted gum and blue gum—is got about Esk, within a 3 to 14 miles radius. The approximate output of the three mills is 400,000 feet a month, about two-thirds of it being pine. The sawn timber goes all over the district and down the railway line. Since the introduction of the dairying industry a great impetus has been given to the timber trade. Mr. Anderson had on hand at time of writing a contract for 200,000 butter boxes for the co-operative farmers' factory for 1908, as well as condensed milk cases for Nestle's factory at Toogoolawah.

Mr. Lars Anderson, who is an old resident of Esk, has had a good opportunity of watching the development of the place. "Dairying, timber, maize, and potatoes, fat cattle and pigs," he says, "have gradually built up the township." At present the timber industry is handicapped by the shortage in the supply of pine. The extension of the Brisbane Valley Railway line from Kannangur to Blackbutt, *via* Yarraman Creek, will open up a splendid lot of timber at the latter place. This timber is both on Government and private land. The connection with Blackbutt will greatly benefit Esk. The



supply of timber at the Blackbutt is practically unlimited, and the freight on timber alone would more than pay for the line. There will probably be a junction of the three lines—viz., the Kilkivan line, now at Kingaroy; the Brisbane Valley line, and the Cooyar line. Speaking generally, farmers in the district are putting up much better houses than formerly, which is chiefly owing to their improved position and the prosperity that has followed the development of the dairying industry and the cutting up of the Colinton and Kilcoy lands. The future of the timber industry is a splendid one.

Mr. A. Blank is chiefly cutting up pine from Kilcoy way. The bulk of the sawn stuff goes to Brisbane. The output is about 3,000 to 4,000 feet per day. He also considers that dairying has given a great impetus to the

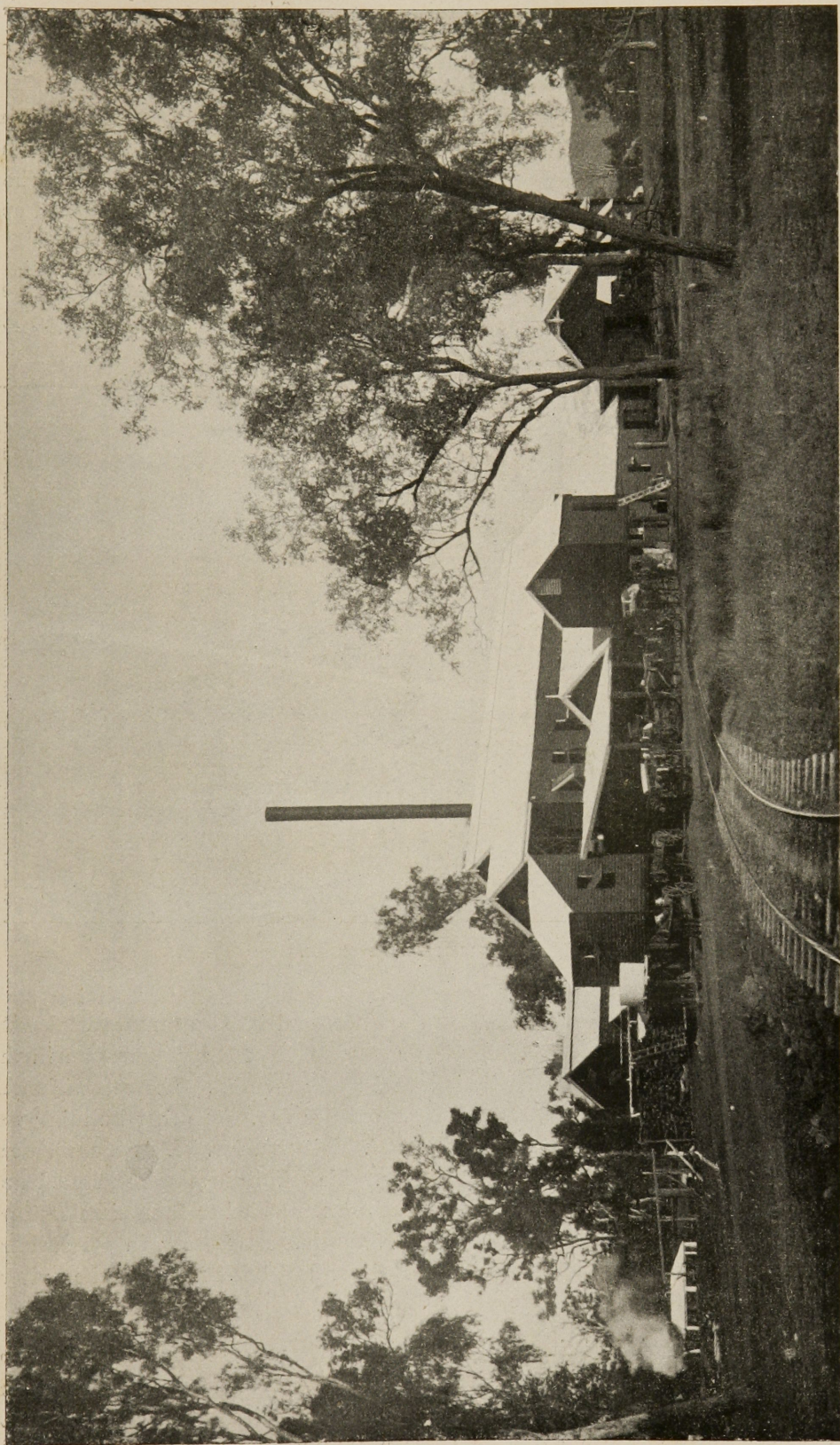


BRAVO (FATHER OF THE CRESSBROOK HEREFORDS).

timber trade. Better houses are being built everywhere in the district. The subdivision of Colinton, 27 miles north of Esk, into blocks varying from 40 to 2,000 acres, and devoted principally to dairying and grazing, has benefited the town. At time of writing, 7,000 acres of Mount Brisbane, from 6 to 10 miles distant, are being subdivided and sold as farms in suitable areas. This land is prime lucerne country. "All that trade," remarked Mr. Blank, "must come into Esk."

Toogoolawah township is 12 miles by rail from Esk. It is only a tiny place as yet, but it is growing rapidly. It is situated in what was formerly one of the Cressbrook paddocks. There are a couple of hotels, Church of England, branch of the Queensland National Bank, a store, public hall, and about a score of residences. The railway reached here in 1904, and at present a great development, caused by the cutting up of the Cressbrook Estate, is





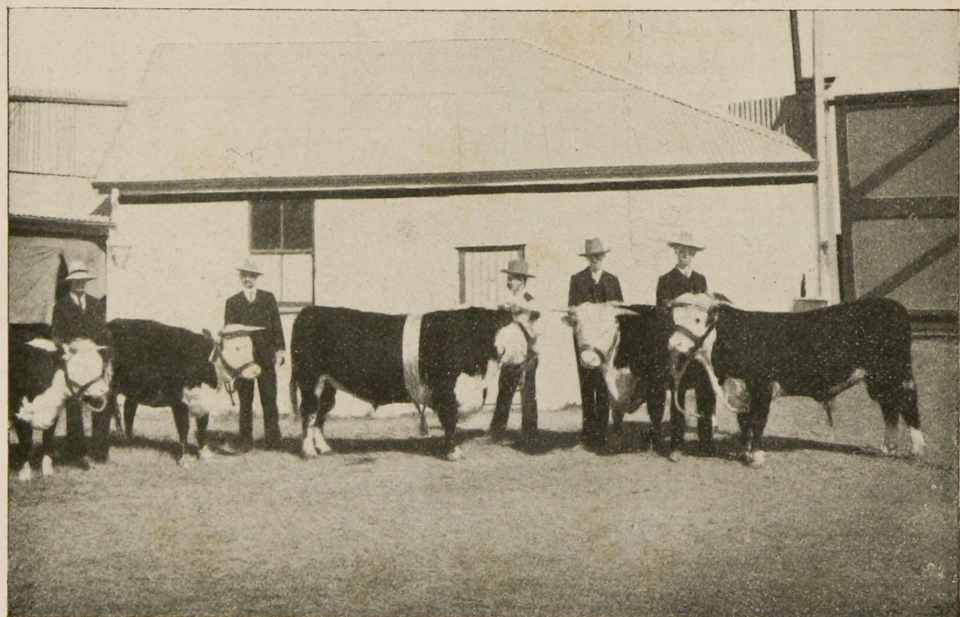
NESTLÉ'S CONDENSED MILK FACTORY, TOOGOO LA WAH.



going on. From Toogoolawah the railway runs on 4 miles to Kannangur, the present terminus, represented by a public-house, blacksmith's shop, &c. It will thence be carried on to the Blackbutt.

At Toogoolawah is situated Nestle's Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Company's factory. This world-renowned firm, whose capital is £1,600,000, has factories in Switzerland, England, Norway, Germany, Spain, and Turkey. They own another factory at Trelawny, near Harrisville, Fassifern District; and are building other factories in Victoria and New South Wales.

The factory was first started by Mr. Colin Munro. He leased part of Cressbrook, and the factory was known as the Cressbrook Dairy Company. He



CRESSBROOK STUD STOCK.

was connected with sugar in the North, and entered into an arrangement with Mr. J. H. McConnel in 1898. Having a knowledge of the vacuum-pan in the manufacture of sugar, he thought it would apply to milk. The establishment started with a capacity of 300 to 400 gallons per day. The first building was 50 feet by 25 feet. The business increased. His son, Mr. W. A. Munro, went to America and got out fresh machinery. New buildings were erected and fitted with a larger pan. The buildings have been added to from time to time. At present they are 120 feet by 60 feet, the largest factory in Queensland. Six thousand gallons of milk can be treated per day, but at time of the writer's visit about 3,000 gallons were being dealt with.

The first period of the present development on Cressbrook was begun by Messrs. D. C. McConnel and Sons cutting up about 2,500 acres when the factory was first started. This land was sold to different individuals on the time-payment system, which admitted of each individual paying off and getting





MONTFORD NONSUCH.



freehold property in the course of ten years. The areas were from 400 to 600 acres, and the purchasers went in for dairying. In 1904 Messrs. D. McConnel and Sons, who were still controlling the factory, cut up another 3,000 acres of their land, which they divided into four farms with a manager on each. These farms they fitted up with all necessary improvements and stocked them with suitable dairy herds. Mr. E. A. Pickering was engaged by them to generally supervise all the farms and stock, with a third share in the stock. Mr. Pickering selected heifers from four different station herds, and also imported several hundred dairy cattle from various parts of New South Wales. These were mated with dairy Shorthorn bulls from the North and South Coast districts of New South Wales. The factory was being supplied at this period by the owners of the farms first cut up, other freehold farms within a 4-mile radius, and the four station dairy farms under Mr. Pickering's supervision. Since then there have been another 3,000 acres of Cressbrook



COW IN GRASS.

country bought by other individuals, who are also supplying the factory with milk. This makes a total of 8,500 acres, formerly used merely for fattening cattle, which has been brought under dairying.

In 1907 the Nestle's Company appeared on the scene, purchased the factory and the four station farms, comprising 3,000 acres, and now carry on the milk-condensing business, Mr. E. A. Pickering being still retained as general manager of the farms. Another large area of Cressbrook is also under offer to Nestle. Milk is now coming in from a 9-mile radius. There are about thirty suppliers. They get 6d. per gallon for the milk. The milk is chiefly used in the Australian trade. It is condensed in about three hours, then



cooled and put into tins. The Nestle's Company make their own tins on the premises from tin imported from England. Water is supplied from an adjoining lagoon, and the company are now erecting a long concrete drain to carry off the refuse to Cressbrook Creek. About fifty hands are employed, and about £50 per day is paid to suppliers.

Twelve hundred cows are milked on the company's farms, and another 1,200 are being milked by private suppliers. There are, therefore, at present 2,400 cows milking in connection with the factory. The Nestle's Company propose to further subdivide their property, and make eight farms instead of four. By so doing they will be enabled to keep up the winter milk supply with ensilage, lucerne, panicum, prairie grass, pumpkins, and cowpea. At present there is a great falling away in the milk supply during the winter months. By this method they expect to work up to 4,000 cows in two years, extending the radius and depôts for milk by increasing the carrying capacity of the



RIVER SCENE, CRESSBROOK.

country from an agricultural standpoint, and by quick transit using both morning and evening's milk. At present there are about fifty hands employed on the company's farms, which, with the fifty hands in the factory, makes about 100 people working in connection with the establishment. It is also proposed to put down several hundred acres in lucerne and prairie grass for winter feed. The natural grasses in the summer are as good as can be procured. Nestle's country consists chiefly of river and creek flats and undulating ridges. There are sub-artesian supplies of water all over it.

Near Cressbrook, Mr. H. B. Gardner has about 1,500 acres of beautiful country on Cressbrook Creek, purchased by him from the station. It consists



chiefly of rich flats, all ringbarked. About 100 acres are in cultivation, chiefly in lucerne and maize. Three hundred cows are milked, the milk all going to Nestle's factory.

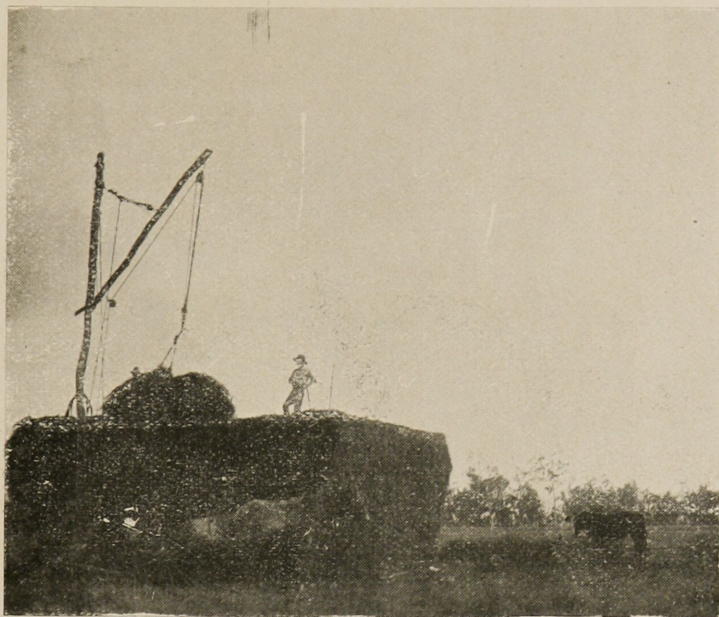
One noticeable feature about this Cressbrook country with its wide river flats, plentiful water, and big timber—the finest dairy country I have seen—is the ease with which the timber dies off after ringbarking. In fact, if sufficiently large clumps are not left for shelter, the unringed trees also perish, probably from sympathy with their kindred. Nevertheless, it is a fact. On the slopes of the Main Range it is quite different. There it is exceedingly difficult to clean the country, and, after ringbarking, forests of suckers come up, even when the timber is rung in the right month.

Mr. E. A. Pickering, Nestle's general farm manager, in partnership with Mr. F. G. Brown, has a fine farm of 1,600 acres on a beautifully sloping ridge adjoining one of the factory farms. This property is named "Mooroombin," and about £10,000 has been spent in improvements. There is a fine milking-shed, with well-drained asphalt floors, and stalls to accommodate fifty cows at a time. This was erected at a cost of £320. Water is laid on, pumped from an adjacent dam, and there are nozzle-heads in various places, so that the whole building can be flushed out whenever required. There are also iron halter-rings fitted on to bars for tethering the cattle when it is desired to keep them inside the shed for feeding purposes. This gives each cow's head plenty of play. The separator is not in use—the 400 cows being kept for supplying the condensed-milk factory. There are three bores (sub-artesian water supply) and a windmill. Water was struck at depths varying from 50 to 70 feet. Feeding troughs for the cows are arranged here and there. About 35 acres were in maize, which it was intended to turn into ensilage.

"Wairumbah," Mr. E. C. McConnel's farm, comprises about 2,000 acres of river flats and low ridges. On the flats the soil is a rich alluvial loam of volcanic nature, with a subsoil of stiff clay varying from near the surface to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  foot. About 70 acres are in cultivation. Lucerne, panicum, maize, pumpkins, pineapples, and potatoes are the principal products. The fodder crops are grown chiefly for the dairy stock. Eighty head of milkers (grade Shorthorns) are in use at Wairumbah, and about 70 at Cobbi, another division of the property, making 150 head in milk. Shorthorn bulls are used, and the dairy stock total 220 altogether. There are two dairies, one at the homestead, which is situated at the junction of Cressbrook Creek and the Brisbane River, and one at Cobbi, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile away. The milk from the homestead goes to Nestle's. The milk from Cobbi is separated, the cream being sent to Esk, and the calves from both Wairumbah and Cobbi are reared on skim milk at the latter place. This is one solution of the difficulty confronting Nestle's suppliers, who find when they sell their milk right out they have nothing left for their calves and pigs. All the dairy stock are hand-fed through the winter. The shed is fitted with milking machines, and three men and three machines can manage eighty cows comfortably. Mr. E. C. McConnel runs Cobbi on the half-share system. He fattens off and sells the culled cows, and no milker is kept unless she milks up to a certain standard. There is a silo



capable of holding 150 tons, the ensilage being made of broad-cast maize. Japanese millet does well here. The river flats, however, are perfect lucerne land. The soil is very rich, but not so adhesive as that on the Darling Downs. Prairie grass is spreading all over the flats on the uncultivated ground, and is the best of winter feed. The property has half a mile frontage to Cressbrook Creek and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile frontage to the Brisbane River. In the back paddock there is a bore, water being obtained at 60 feet.



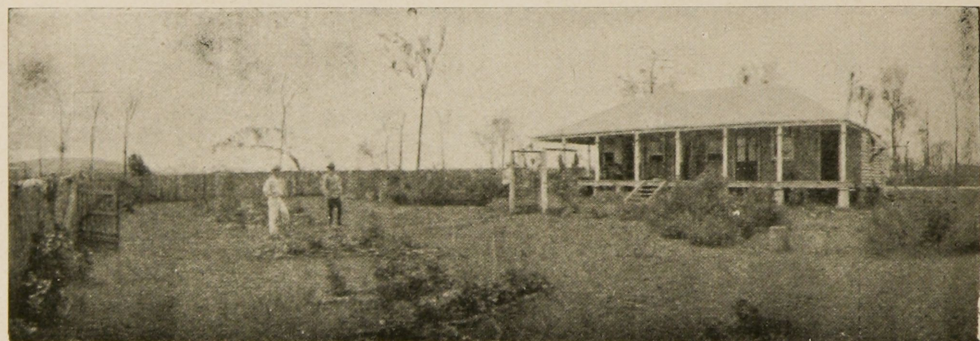
ENSILAGE STACK.

Wairumbah Homestead is beautifully situated near the junction of Cressbrook Creek and the Brisbane River. From a dam in the creek water is pumped by means of an oil engine and laid on to the house and yards. All the outbuildings are good and substantial, and a neat tennis lawn adjoins the house. Mr. E. C. McConnel intends to extend his farming operations, and to further subdivide his farm. He is quite a young man—an enthusiast at his work—and has already formed and sold to Nestle one good dairy farm, “Gunyah,” where Mr. Pickering now resides. When one recollects the grey routine of city life, or the almost as monotonous routine of military existence in times of peace, what a charm there is in living the free open-air life of the bush, with a snug place of your own and plenty of good stock to look after!

Cressbrook, the oldest property on the Upper Brisbane River, was taken up in 1840 by the late David C. McConnel, who came out to Sydney in 1839, bought sheep, cattle, and outfit, and travelled north from New South Wales through New England and across the Darling Downs, which were then being taken up. Pressing on, he came down from Toowoomba to Gatton, and was the first white man who crossed the range from the Downs. He took up as one run what was afterwards known as Rosewood, Tarampa, and Buaraba



Stations—all, with the exception of the latter, now a mass of small farms. He then struck out further, and, selling out his first venture, founded Cressbrook. The blacks were very bad in those days, and many shepherds and stockmen were murdered before the country became pacified. Some nine months after, Francis and Frederic Bigge followed over the same route, and took up Mount Brisbane, and about a year later Colinton—now all cut up into farms—which adjoins Cressbrook higher up the river, was taken up by James Balfour. A Shorthorn herd was first started on Cressbrook, and bulls and cows imported from England. For the last twenty-five years Herefords have taken the place of Shorthorns, and both of the Cressbrook strains have been continuously successful on the showgrounds of Brisbane, Ipswich, and Toowoomba.



GUNYAH FARM HOMESTEAD, ON CRESSBROOK.

Cressbrook originally comprised about 240 square miles, but as time went on the leases gradually expired, leaving some 56,000 acres of freehold. It is almost the only property in Queensland that has remained in the possession of the original owners to the third generation. Up to 1873 it was used as a combined sheep and cattle station; after that date for cattle and horses. In 1871 Mr. J. H. McConnel took charge of the property. Owing to the dissolution of the partnership, the estate is being subdivided and sold, Mr. J. H. McConnel retaining 16,000 acres. A large portion has been cut up and disposed of as dairy farms—and it may safely be said that as dairying land it is about the pick of Queensland. The estate consists of low and undulating ridges, most of which are agricultural, and large inland and river flats, with black and chocolate alluvial soil. The country is volcanic; here and there basaltic formations are in evidence, and on the tops of the ridges waterworn stones are to be found, accounting for the rich nature of the soil, which may be called alluvial throughout. The river flats are equal to anything in the Southern States. Much of the land can be ploughed at once, and the cost of clearing the timbered portions would not be heavy. The timber is principally ironbark, with apple-tree on the flats—all rung country. The Upper Brisbane River, to which Cressbrook has a double frontage of  $16\frac{1}{2}$  miles, Cressbrook Creek, and numerous lagoons and dams, provide an unfailing supply of fresh water, and on the inland flats and ridges sub-artesian water has been tapped in a number of places at a depth of 40 feet. There are twenty-four bores on the



estate, and water was obtained at depths varying from 40 to 100 feet. Paspalum and prairie grass grow luxuriantly on the river flats. The natural grasses are very rich and nutritious, as will be realised from the fact that the number of cattle fattened on Cressbrook for three years was 7,845, 7,947, and 7,942, making a total of 23,734. About 16,500 acres of the estate have now been sold. On its present reduced area the estate carries about 4,000 head of cattle—of these, 250 are purebred Hereford breeding cows. The chief business



STOCK ON CRESSBROOK.

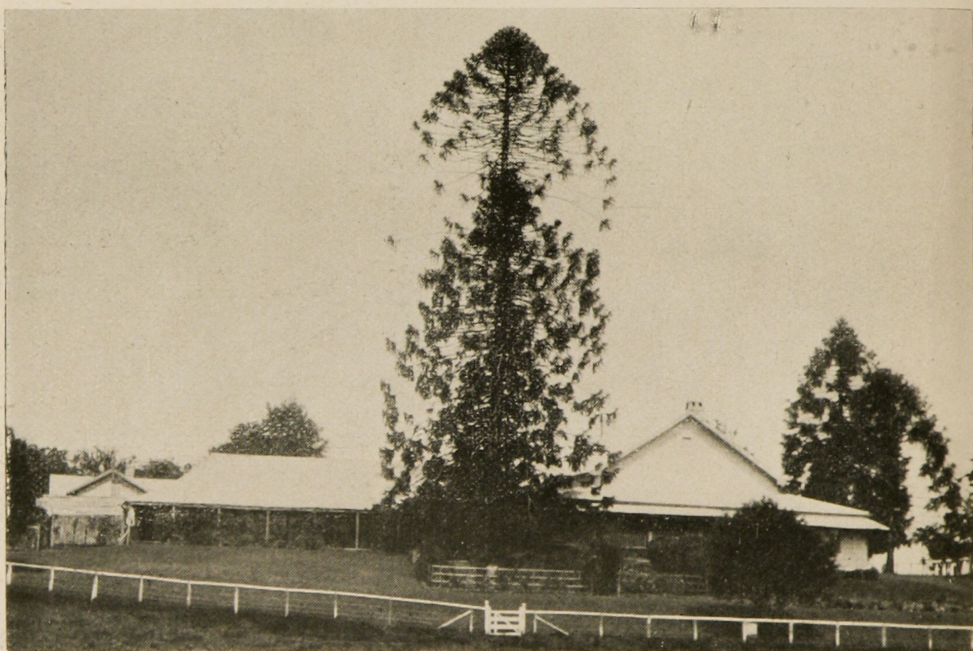
of the station is breeding Hereford bulls and heifers for sale, and fattening bullocks. Cressbrook has long been famous for its stud of Herefords and its thoroughbred trotting and buggy horses. About 3,000 fat cattle are turned off every year. The estate is worked in conjunction with Mount Stanley Station, 37 miles to the north-west, at the head of the river. The store cattle are brought down from there and topped up on the rich river pastures on Cressbrook. There are about 2,500 cattle on Mount Stanley.

Glenhaughton, comprising 900 square miles on the Dawson, is also worked in conjunction with the estate. A Shorthorn bullock off Cressbrook went 1,623 lb., dressed weight.

Cressbrook Homestead—there is really a small township round the picturesque old place—is situated on the Brisbane River, about 55 miles from Ipswich and 3 from Toogoolawah Railway Station. The ornamental trees, which are all of considerable age, and the church, covered with creepers, give an old-world air to the oldest settlement on the Upper Brisbane. The buildings are arranged in a sort of wide quadrangle on a broad level space above



the river bank. There is a school-house, club, head office, large stables, outbuildings, and yards. Round the club-house is a neat garden, brilliant with flowers. The sheds are filled with up-to-date agricultural machinery and everything necessary for cultivating the 300 acres under crop, in addition to the large areas laid down in lucerne and prairie grass. Considerable quantities of ensilage and lucerne hay are made, and the silo is kept full for winter use. An oil engine runs the silo elevator, chaffcutter, and circular saw for firewood cutting. The land in fallow is worked by a seven-furrow disc plough, drawn by ten horses, which gets over a good many acres a day. Water is laid on everywhere. It is pumped from an adjacent lagoon into a 20,000-gallon tank, and thence to an 8,000-gallon tank, which supplies the house. It is also laid on to the home paddocks, yards, and all over the head station.



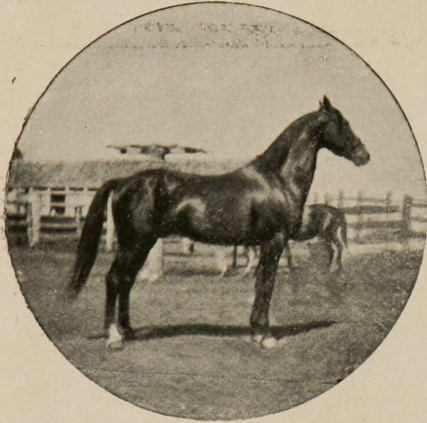
HOMESTEAD, CRESSBROOK.

The stud bulls are stall-fed, and the stud cows are brought in for service.

Since the Shorthorn herd was dropped about twenty-five years ago in favour of Herefords, the Cressbrook stock have held premier place, and are well known throughout Queensland and New South Wales. The principal bulls are—The Admiral, champion of Victoria 1906, and of Queensland 1907; Montford Nonsuch, by Aberdeen (imported from England), champion of Queensland 1904 and 1905. Others are Eton Hero and Fair Boy, Meteor, bred by Mr. J. H. McConnel, by a son of Bravo, the founder of the herd, and several younger bulls. Amongst the female cattle Lady Montford, three years, was champion in Toowoomba and Brisbane in 1905 and 1906. There is also a Shorthorn dairy bull, Prince Royal, imported from the South Coast. The



celebrated trotting stallion Harold, now dead, formerly had his home at Cressbrook. He was the champion trotter of Australia, and winner of fifty blue



HAROLD.

ribbons, and his stock are famous. A good many horses are still bred on the estate. Amongst the stallions in use are Warwick Antrim, late Lord Antrim, by Antrim (imp.), a four-year-old trotting stallion; a Harold colt, two years, a perfect picture, showing many of the characteristics of his sire; Crown Jewel, a blood horse; Fairy Prince, a pony stallion; and the Suffolk Punch stallion Vizier, first and champion in Brisbane in 1905. There is also a Welsh pony, Taniwah, imported from New Zealand. A fair number of mares are kept, and the reputation of the

estate for trotting and buggy horses is well maintained.

From the veranda of Cressbrook, looking over the river, a pretty picture can be obtained. Immediately in front and below you stretches the vivid green of the river flats, divided into small paddocks, where are grazing a few choice Hereford stud cows, their glossy red coats and white faces showing up in sharp contrast against the emerald floor. Beyond, the river, broad and clear in the morning light, passes with a majestic sweep. Across the further banks the wide levels carry on the green tone of the pasture lands to the edge of the foothills, above which rise the mountains in purple bars against the sky. In the winter months these flats are covered with red deer, which leave their haunts on the high hills to graze on the rich prairie grasses along the river, and invade the Cressbrook cultivation paddocks. However picturesque a herd of deer may be, it is not a desirable object when it is consuming the sustenance required to fatten bullocks, or the fodder grown for stud bulls. People who may be astonished to read of red deer in Queensland can easily be made acquainted with the cause of their advent. Many years ago, on the range that forms the watershed of the Stanley and Brisbane Rivers, a large tract was set apart as a reserve for red deer and native birds. Some very fine specimens were presented to the State of Queensland, a few of them by the late Queen Victoria. They were turned out, and it was thought they would provide a long-felt picturesque element in the country as well as some old-world deer-stalking. But at the present time they have multiplied to such an extent that they are over-running the country. Nothing stops them. They will either jump or get through any fence. Some of the stags have magnificent antlers. In ordinary times they are to be seen in herds of thirty or forty; but in winter they cover the river flats in hundreds. At Cressbrook a man has to be told off with a gun to keep them off the cultivation. Some means will have to be devised for dealing with them, as they are becoming a serious nuisance.

A considerable amount of space has been devoted to Cressbrook, because at the present time it is a focus of great development in the Stanley District



which is really benefiting the whole State. That development, considerable as it is, is only in its infancy. A few years ago it was one large estate devoted simply to cattle-raising. To-day it is rapidly becoming the home of close settlement. The breaking-up of these estates—such as Cressbrook, Caboonbah, and Mount Brisbane—is going to make the Stanley the first dairying district in Queensland. There is no gainsaying the fact that all the upper river country is natural dairying land. The establishment of Nestle's factory gives the whole neighbourhood an easy and profitable method of turning their land to account. If farmers do not desire to sell their milk right out to Nestles,



BELLAMBI FARM, CRESSBROOK, SHOWING MILKING YARDS, AND FLATS UNDER LUCERNE.

they can send their cream by rail to the butter factory at Esk. As a matter of fact, some do both; they send the milk from half their cows to Nestles and the cream from the other half to Esk, and on the skim milk (mixed with pollard) from half the number of their cows they rear all the calves and pigs. The terms on which the land was offered were very liberal—viz., one-tenth cash, and the balance up to twenty years, with no payment except interest until the end of the second year. Thus, for £100 of land you paid £6 19s. 7d. per annum, or 11s. 9d. per month, or 2s. 11d. per week, or 5d. per day. Multiplied by ten this shows you the payments on £1,000 worth of land. If the average price of land was £6, you would have to find 5d. per day (or 1 gallon of milk) to pay principal and interest on 16½ acres; if the price



was £12, it would mean 10d., or 2 gallons of milk per day. Or, to put it plainer, the milk of five cows, at 2 gallons per day, would pay for £1,000 worth of land.

To indicate that I am not alone in my opinion of the value of these rich lands for dense settlement, the opinion of Mr. John Forrest, managing director of Moreheads Limited, one of the leading experts in stock and station business, may be given. He says: "No idea of the value of the Cressbrook lands can be arrived at by treating the estate merely as a grazing property. The soil in general is extremely fertile and deep, even on the tops of the ridges, and nearly the whole of the land is well adapted for cutting up into small farms for dairying and agriculture combined." Mr. John Cameron, ex-M.L.A. for Brisbane North, one of the highest authorities, states that "this country could not be surpassed for the cultivation of lucerne or prairie grass." Mr. E. A. Pickering, the well-known judge of dairy stock, thinks "there is no other estate in Queensland that lends itself more admirably for closer settlement and dairying, or whose potential wealth for agricultural purposes is greater."

Adjoining Cressbrook, higher up the Brisbane River, is Colinton, once a cattle station belonging to Messrs. Moore, but now all cut up and sold into dairy farms. All this country is excellent dairy land, although it does not contain as large an area of river flats as Cressbrook. Close to Colinton House, on the west bank of Emu Creek, is the preserved milk factory recently erected by the Standard Company. All the settlers around here are doing well. Colinton was cut up into 147 farms, some of them of considerable size. The estate was thus sold out for about £100,000. Above Colinton you come to the township of Moore, and above that again are a succession of dairy farms until you reach Mount Stanley and the grazing selections around it, which occupy both the east and west branches of the Brisbane River. Yabba and the Kilcoy lands are at the head of the eastern branch, and Monsildale Station is at the head of the creek of the same name, which runs into the Brisbane below Cooyar. Cooyar Creek is the most westerly branch of the Brisbane. This creek, which is the longest branch, heads from the back of Jimbour and Cumkillenbar. On its waters are situated Taromeo Station and the Blackbutt settlement of farmers. The farms are mostly about 80 acres in extent, and there is a village settlement. The soil is magnificently rich, and will grow anything. The railway extension from Kannangur through Colinton and Moore, up the river to Oakey Creek, and thence up that creek to the Blackbutt village, and probably thence to Yarraman Creek, which is one of the most fertile valleys on the coast side of the Main Range, has now been decided on. There are farms all along Yarraman Creek, and large timber reserves. The Blackbutt country is of rich volcanic soil, containing enormous quantities of the finest hoop and bunya pine to be found in Australia, and only needs the railway to make it available. This will practically add a new province to the Stanley, and cause a tremendous development.

In the Stanley Electorate are also Ravensbourne and Perseverance—farming and timber settlements. They are similar volcanic country—equally fertile—to Blackbutt, and grow magnificent timber, chiefly hardwood. On





CABOONBAH HEAD STATION.



Palm Creek Mr. D. Munro has his sawmill, from which he himself built a tramway up the range—a unique feat. Mr. Munro has agreed to extend his tramway further into the Stanley if the Government give the rails at a cheaper rate. Mr. H. P. Somerset, member for the Stanley, was largely instrumental in getting this extension.

Retracing our steps to Cressbrook, a pleasant drive past Wairumbah, and with the Mount Beppo scrub farms away to the south-west, brings us to Caboonbah, the residence of Mr. H. P. Somerset, M.L.A. The Mount Beppo settlement originally was an extensive belt of vine scrub country between Esk and Caboonbah and Cressbrook. The soil is exceedingly rich, being a



CABOONBAH ROCK.

friable loam. At first these settlers had a hard struggle, but since the dairying industry became established they have done well. All this scrub is now a chessboard of beautiful farms, and some of the lands originally bought for a song are exceedingly valuable. Caboonbah is situated about 3 miles below the junction of the Brisbane and Stanley Rivers, on the south bank of the former. Caboonbah House is situated on the most picturesque site in the West Moreton. I can say this with confidence after having travelled over the four electorates of Rosewood, Fassifern, Lockyer, and Stanley. It is an ideal spot. The house stands near the edge of a high cliff, called Caboonbah Rock, which rises about 120 feet above the river. Around you spreads a glorious panorama of wide pasture lands, some of it alluvial river flats, some gently undulating ridges, studded with enormous gum trees, their grey trunks weird against the verdant green, whilst on every side rise the rims of the mountains which frame the picture in walls of ethereal blue. Through the centre of this wonderland of varied tints, gleaming like burnished steel in the early sun rays, shines



the broad breast of the combined rivers. The waters pass there, right beneath your feet, not now lashed into blind fury of flood and carrying huge trees, fences, and struggling stock on the terrible bosom of their turbid brown torrents, but placidly, in lazy mood, crooning a lullaby as they sing their way to the sea. From the great knoll on which Caboonbah stands you look up and down the river at two wide highways of silver light. A few miles from where you stand, the Stanley, coming down with bright speed from his high mountain cradle, meets the Brisbane, winding a way along the Cressbrook hills and cutting deep into the bases of the mountains, its narrow rocky-floored ravines luxuriant with ferns and palm trees. You are standing on the neck



A BRISBANE RIVER SCENE.

of a diamond-shaped peninsula. Over there, half a mile to the east, you catch the gleam of the Upper Brisbane, moving towards its union with the Stanley. Here at your feet it is the marriage of the waters which come gliding past. One recalls Matthew Arnold's lines—

But the majestic river floated on,  
 Out of the mist and hum of that low land,  
 \* \* \* \* \*  
 Brimming and bright and large.

From Caboonbah House the scenery is exquisite, more especially at early morning and evening, when the lights and shadows play upon the hills and the colour-tones on the river tremble and change. On the north and north-east rise a dark wall of hills, with lofty peaks, amongst which Mount Brisbane, Mount McConnel, Boorran, and Mount Deception show up prominently. To the east rise Mount Byron, Mount Sampson, and the D'Aguilar group. On the south looms Mount Esk, and on the west Mount Beppo, with the rich farming settlement around it. Caboonbah comprises about 5,000 acres, chiefly river



flats of rich alluvial soil and well-grassed ridges. Hitherto it has been used entirely as a grazing property for fattening bullocks, but now dairying is also carried on. It carries about 1,000 head of bullocks, besides horses, working bullocks, and other stock. There are two dairies on the property, the principal one called Boorran, and about 300 cows, chiefly Shorthorns, are milked. Milking Shorthorn bulls were imported from New South Wales.

Like Cressbrook, the Caboonbah paddocks have great fattening qualities. There is no finer fattening country than these Upper Brisbane river flats and ridges. A very large percentage of it is suitable for lucerne, and, as most of the timber is dead, the cost of clearing would not be heavy. The depth of the soil can be seen in the walls of the gullies. The river has abundance of fish, and there are plenty of platypus, which are growing rare elsewhere. Red deer

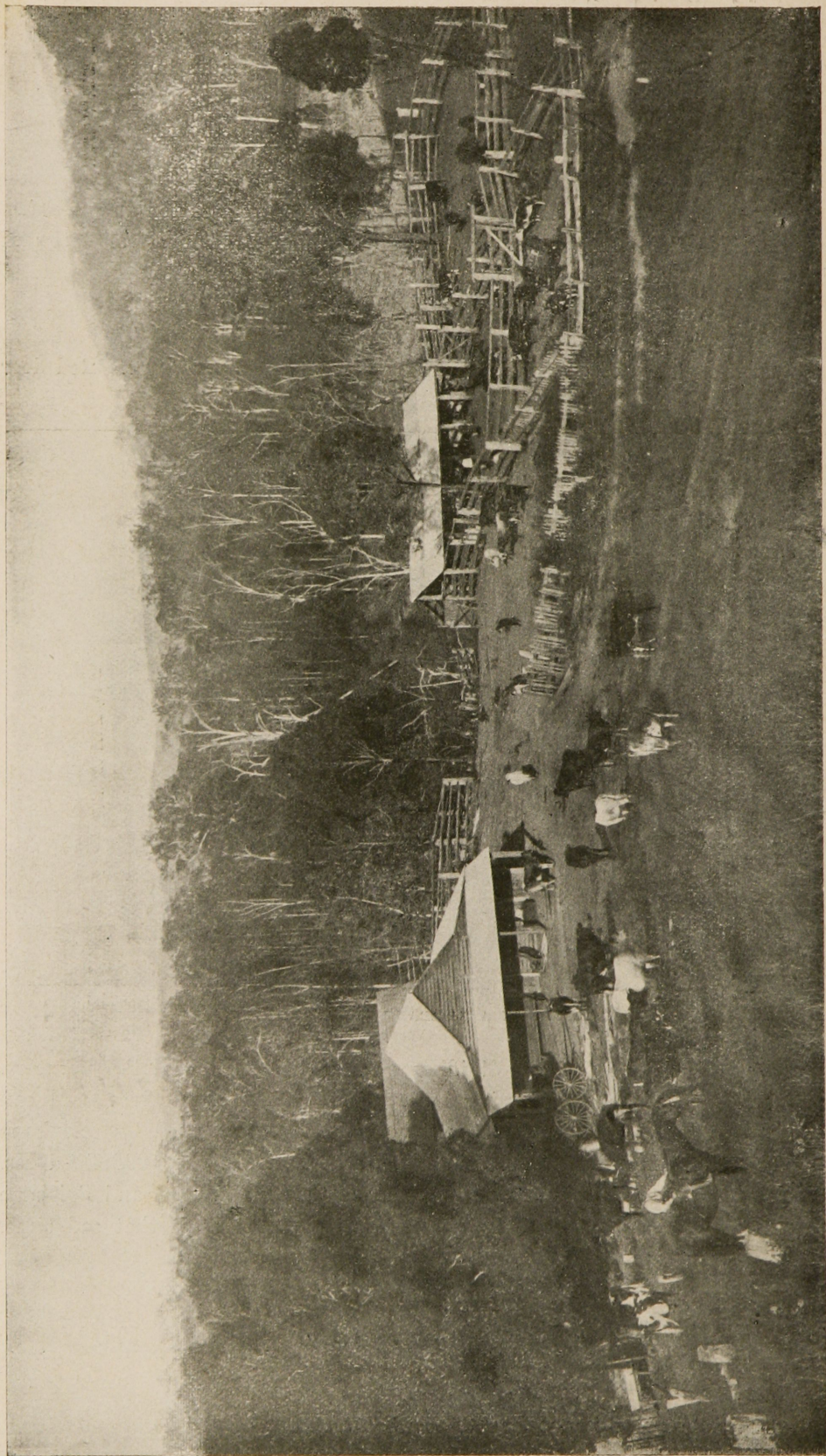


CATTLE ON A BRISBANE RIVER FARM.

roam over all the mountains dividing the Cressbrook and Kilcoy waters. Caboonbah is now a flood-warning station on the Brisbane River, and can give sixty hours' warning to the metropolis. It is connected by telephone with Cressbrook, Mount Brisbane, Bellevue, and Esk. In the 1893 flood Mr. Somerset was able to give warning to Brisbane that the Stanley and Brisbane had both come down. He has many interesting anecdotes of that sad time. In the 1902 drought the water couch grass in the river beds at Caboonbah saved the stock. As the water in the river-bed receded, more and more of the water couch was available. Mr. Somerset generously allowed the surrounding settlers to put their cattle in his river paddock, and by so doing saved 300 of his neighbours' stock.

Up the Stanley River, above Caboonbah, are Mount Brisbane and Mount Byron Stations, on Reedy Creek and Byron Creek respectively. Then all the





A BRISBANE RIVER FARM — J. O'BRIEN'S.



land is in farms up to Kilcoy. All these settlers are dairying, and a good deal of their cream goes to Esk. Higher up the river the cream goes to Caboolture. Kilcoy was sold to the Government, subdivided, and resold as dairy farms. Formerly it was a cattle station. On Sheep Station Creek and



MOUNT BRISBANE HOMESTEAD.

Kilcoy Creek there are dairy farms all the way. Higher up, again, you come to Durundur. All the produce from Durundur and Kilcoy goes to Caboolture. The much-required railway from Caboolture, which will link up this part of the country with the North Coast line, is now in course of progress.



RICH AGRICULTURAL COUNTRY.

A drive up the gorge of the Stanley is very interesting. The walls are steep and rugged in places, and heavily timbered, but there is good grazing land. There are some fine grazing properties on the river. The water is beautifully clear and cool, and flows rapidly. A few miles from Caboonbah,

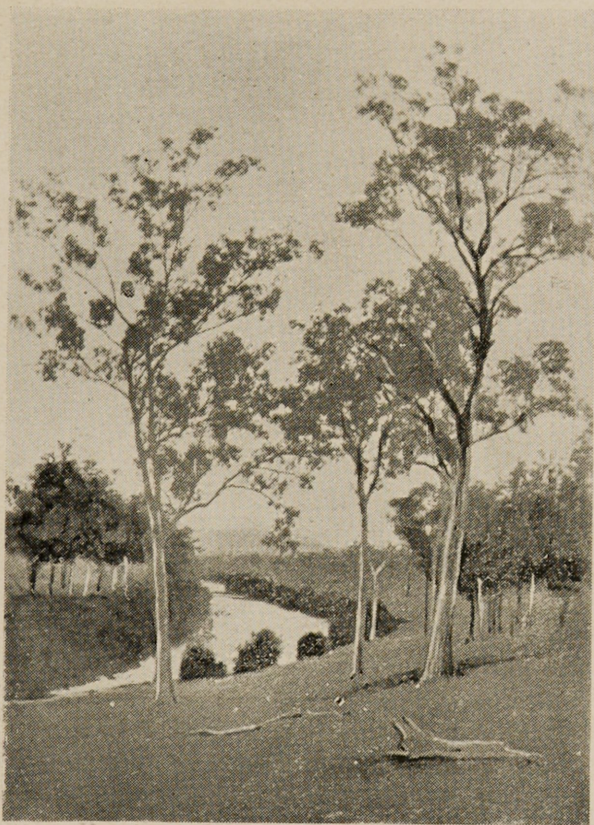




MOUNT BRISBANE STORE BULLOCKS.



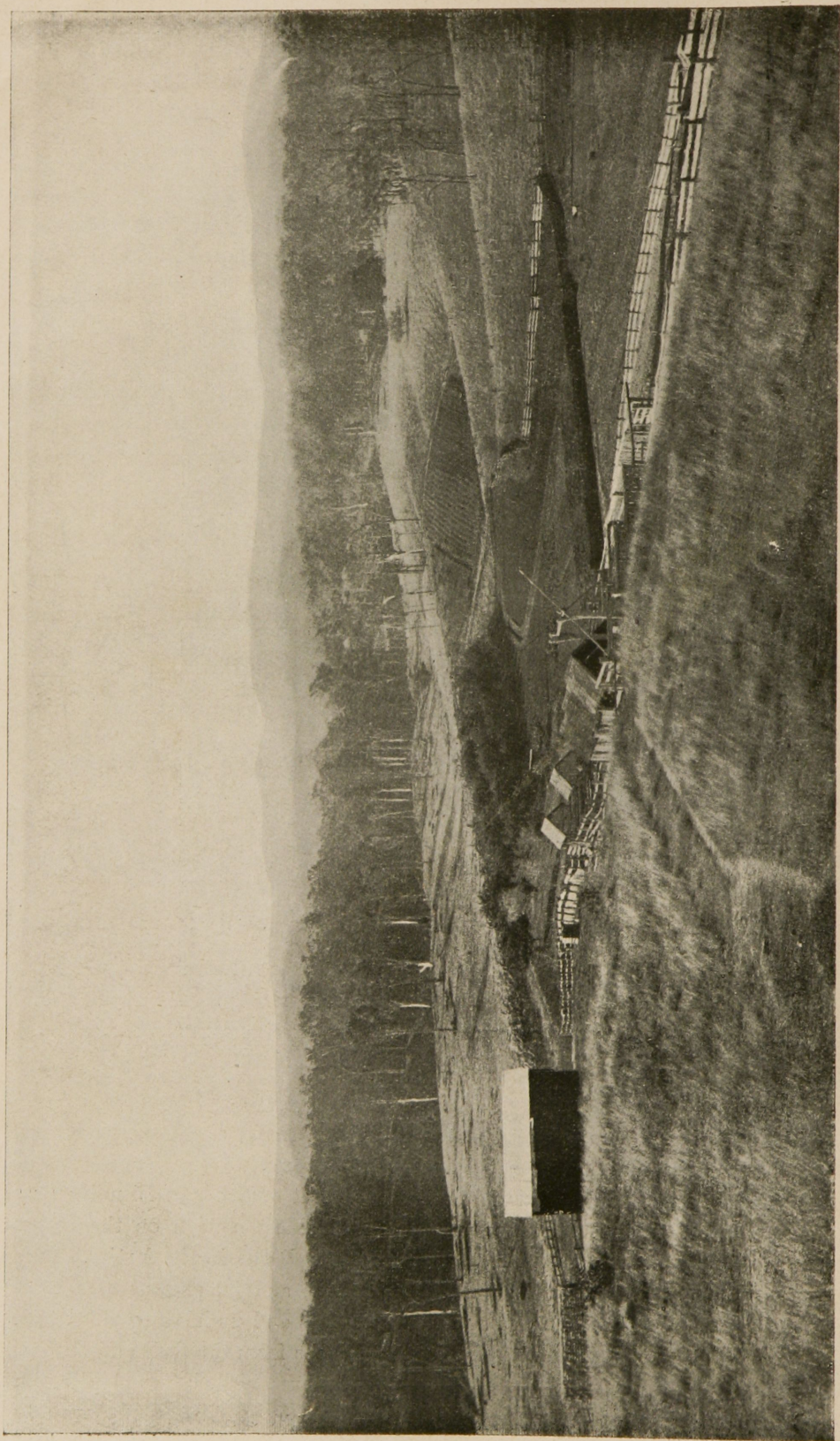
where the river takes a bend, there is a fine site for a dam, which could supply millions of gallons of water to Brisbane. The river rushes straight against the mountain side, and then swerves, consequently the force of the current is broken. Just past this wide bend there are rock formations on each side of the stream, which would afford good holding ground for the wall of a dam. Mr. Somerset was so much impressed with the natural facilities of this spot for conserving water that he reported the matter to the Hydraulic Engineer. This dam is now part of a scheme recommended by Mr. Hazen, the celebrated American expert, for the water supply of Brisbane.



A PEEP OF THE RIVER.

Mount Brisbane Station is situated on Reedy Creek, about three-quarters of a mile from its junction with the Stanley, and 2 miles from the junction of the Stanley and Brisbane. It is 16 miles south-west of Esk and 15 miles west of Toogoolawah. Mount Brisbane is the second oldest station on the Upper Brisbane, having been formed by Messrs. F. and F. Bigge in the forties. It is now the property of Messrs. Bigge and McConnel, and its present area comprises 35,000 acres, consisting of alluvial river flats and undulating ridges, all heavily grassed, chiefly devoted to fattening bullocks from the Gulf and Central districts. The firm have a property of 20,000 acres, called Greystonlea, on the Burnett, which is used as a depôt for cattle. They then come down to Mount Brisbane and are classed. The most forward are put into the best





FARMING ON THE BRISBANE RIVER.



fattening paddocks. In an exceptionally good season as many as 7,700 fat bullocks have been turned off Mount Brisbane. The stock are inoculated for pleuro and dipped regularly every three weeks. In addition to grazing, the station is now going in partly for dairying. They are milking 140 cows on the share system. The station policy is also to extend their areas of cultivation along the river flats, and lay it down in lucerne and artificial grasses for fattening. South Coast bulls and heifers of the Shorthorn strain have been imported. It is ideal dairying country, all rung, not too heavily. Mount Brisbane has a double frontage to the Stanley and Brisbane Rivers; Reedy Creek also runs through it. The rainfall is 36 to 40 inches—averaging about 38 inches per annum. The station is also breeding thoroughbreds and draughts, and is famous for its stock horses. The Mount Brisbane camp horses are the best on the river. These are chiefly got by Eros, a son of Anteros (imp.), sire of several Brisbane racehorses. There is also a Westminster colt, The Marquis, bred by Mort and Son, of Franklynvale. The Indian buyers come over regularly and buy from the station. One pony, Achievement, by Eros, has won several pony races in India.



BULLOCK TEAM WITH PINE LOGS ON RANGE AT CROHAMHURST.

The most interesting point about Mount Brisbane is that the proprietors are cutting up portions of it for sale as agricultural and dairying farms. About 7,700 acres are being offered at the time of writing, in areas of from 100 to 250 acres. This land consists principally of river flats, rich alluvial lucerne lands on both sides of the Brisbane River, about 8 miles from Esk, and about the same distance from Nestle's Condensed Milk Factory at Toogoolawah. It has frontage to the Brisbane River, with permanent water, and building sites out of the highest flood mark. There is also a large area on Reedy Creek and the Brisbane River suitable for lucerne.



Probably by the time this appears in print these blocks will all be sold, and it will be a good thing for the cause of close settlement in Queensland if more is offered.

To the north of the station rises the main Mount Brisbane range, and on the south lies the resumed part of the property. This is all cut up into farms, and is now known as the Deep Creek Farming Settlement. The country is rich black soil. The post town is Fernvale.

To the east is Mount Byron, with its timber reserves. Messrs. Brown and Broad have sawmills there. When I visited the neighbourhood the mill had 250,000 feet of sawn timber waiting to be carted. It is 5 miles from Mount Brisbane and 21 miles from Esk. There were twelve to fifteen teams carting sawn timber, chiefly pine, into Esk from this mill. The teamsters were getting 3s. per 100 feet for the two days' trip. About 3,000 feet are an ordinary load, but as much as 4,800 feet have been taken in one hauling. The teams average about twenty bullocks. Both horse and bullock teams are in use, and there is a traction engine on the road taking in sawn stuff to Esk. The teamsters also make good money hauling log timber. There is also a large Government timber plantation at Mount Byron. Situated in the neighbourhood are several big dairying and grazing selections.

There is a mill about a mile north of Mount Brisbane, belonging to Mr. Denning, and another mill about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the south, the property of Messrs. Hancock.

To the west of the station are Caboonbah, Cressbrook, and the Mount Beppo farms.

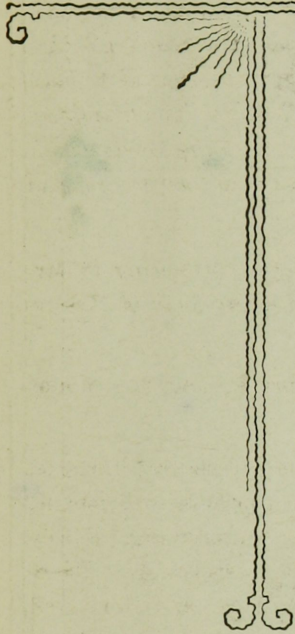
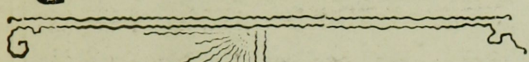
Up the Stanley River there are large grazing selections of several thousand acres in extent. Further up you come to Kilcoy, 17 miles from Mount Brisbane, now all cut up and subdivided into farms, chiefly occupied in dairying. Kilcoy township consists of a bank, three hotels, Church of England, stores, &c. There is a thick surrounding population, for it is all good dairying land, very well watered. To wind up, there is this anomaly: Mount Brisbane is on the Stanley, and Mount Stanley on the Brisbane River.



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# Queensland

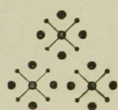
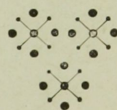


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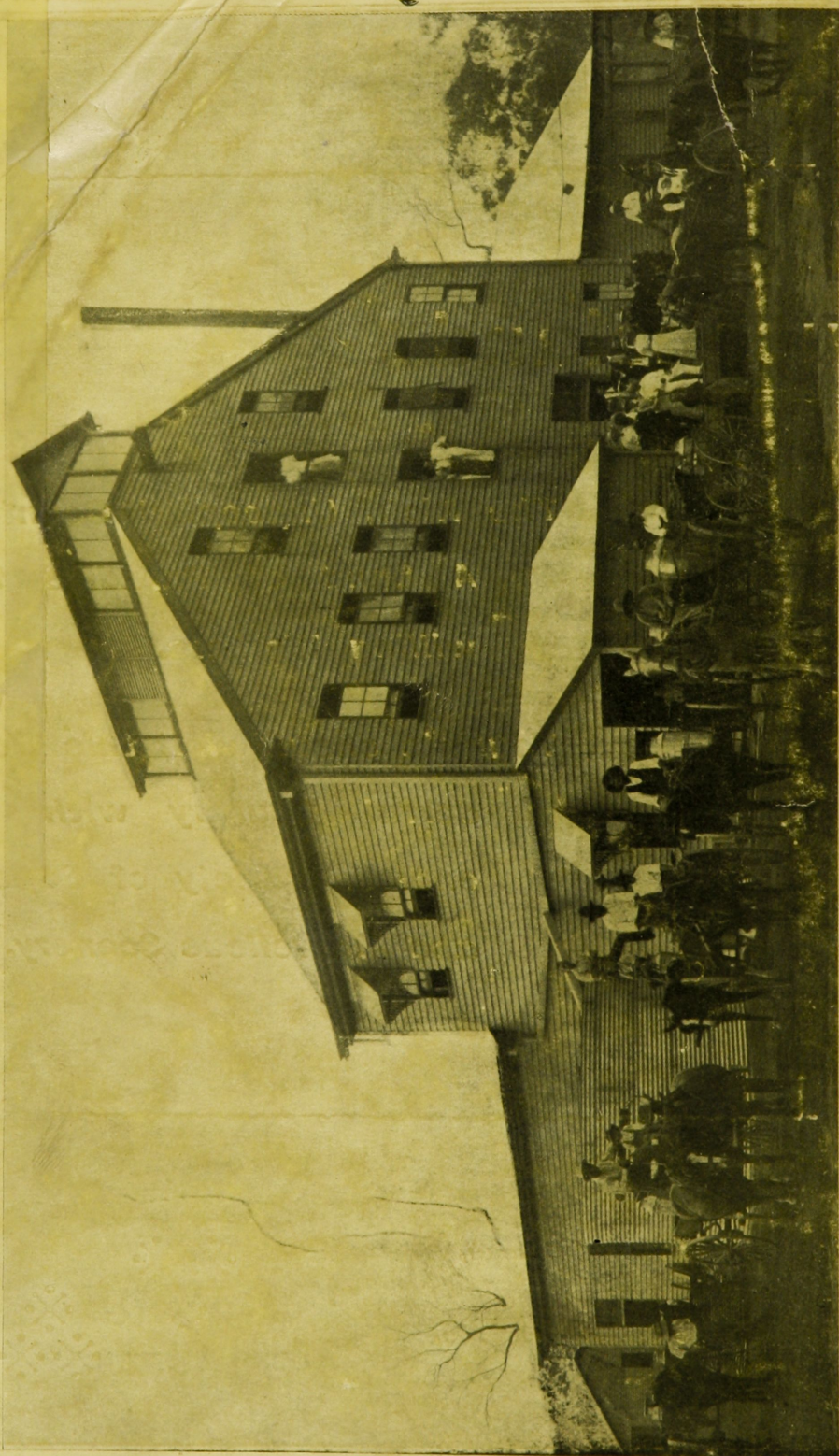
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